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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

ALL eyes look to America, and all present public interest centres there. European Governments, to whose daily and hourly acts we are in the habit of directing our gaze with suspense and curiosity, scarcely now give us a thought. But we sit in momentary expectation of the arrival of every vessel from New York, hoping perhaps against hope that the horrors of war may yet be averted. A vast deal of discussion is fortunately going on, and the wishes of those who desire peace are most likely to be realised if the discussion is continued. The *New York Times* declares that there is nothing in the language or action of the Federal Government to wound the susceptibilities of our Government, and throws the blame for any sourness of feeling that has been created upon the New York press generally, and especially upon the leading articles in the *New York Herald*. Among others who have commented upon the difficulties of the present crisis is Mr. Horsman, member for Stroud, who has favoured his constituents with an elaborate and eloquent speech. Reviving the old and now settled question of the paper duty, he endeavoured to vindicate his own consistency, and lost no chance of sneering at the prospects of the Reform question. He wisely, however, laid more stress on the American question; and some of his opinions on that topic the country will gladly indorse. Every man of sense must deprecate a war with America; but every man of spirit will not, because of a disinclination to war, permit an insult to be perpetrated without apology and explanation. The question is, whether President Lincoln and his

Cabinet will have the moral courage to oppose the fanatical fury and blustering swagger of the bullies of the North. Sensible and discreet people are less emotional and demonstrative than the empty boasters and rowdies who make their

voices heard, not by saying anything that is worth hearing, but by saying everything loud.

During this anxious expectancy on our part we have been proceeding with the elections in Finsbury, Nottingham, and Birkenhead. In the last place Mr. Laird, a Conservative, has been returned. He had strong local interest, and the Roman Catholics voted for him, those religionists having of late evinced a partiality for the Tory party. In Finsbury Mr. Remington Mills and Mr. Cox carry on the contest—the former relying on the large support he has received, and the power of his purse, which he can use if necessary. The latter advocates financial reform, not only in general politics, but in the election in which he is engaged. A Conservative candidate has been talked of, but it would require three Liberal candidates with equal chances to give a Conservative any real chance of success.

Dublin has been distinguishing itself by demonstrations of a very diverse kind. The O'Donoghue has been, to use a felicitous phrase of the *Times*, "playing at rebellion." Great and well grounded as is our belief in human folly, we were almost surprised by the stupendous nonsense talked on the occasion. So much "sound and fury, signifying nothing," it has seldom been our lot to hear, even in a Hibernian harangue. As, however, folly begets folly, Dublin has again distinguished itself by another and scarcely less offensive demonstration. Mr. Whalley, M.P., who has for some years toiled to make himself conspicuous in public life and signally failed, has now achieved notoriety by having become the



CAPTAIN WILES, COMMANDING THE UNITED STATES' WAR-SLOOP SAN JACINTO.



HON. J. M. MASON, COMMISSIONER FROM THE CONFEDERATE STATES TO GREAT BRITAIN.



HON. JOHN SLIDELL, COMMISSIONER FROM THE CONFEDERATE STATES TO FRANCE.

(FROM PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRADY, OF NEW YORK.)

recognised and authorised successor of Mr. Spooner, the veteran enemy of Maynooth. He has visited Dublin; and his appearance was the signal for a meeting in which the most rabid prejudices were ventilated, and the most narrow-minded, obsolete, sectarian opinions propounded. Orangeism, according to Mr. Whalley, is still an institution—and a vigorous and useful institution. In a country which was beginning to know something of prosperity in consequence of the partial abatement of rancorous religious rivalry and theological controversy. Mr. Whalley has the effrontery to attempt to revive the bitter hostilities of antagonistic creeds. Such a fact must uncomfortably shake the theories of those who believe in Progress.

We have various indications of the near approach of Christmas. The weather, however, is not one of them. We are enjoying an almost unseasonable mildness; and what is to be dreaded is one of those sudden changes to severe weather which are among the most trying peculiarities of our climate. The Cattle Show in Baker-street has come round with its usual regularity, and is generally well spoken of. It is peculiarly rich in agricultural implements.

Financial affairs in the City are less disturbed than might have been expected, considering the general disquiet and uncertainty of public affairs. But in the foreign and colonial produce markets the favourable tendency which existed a few days ago has been disturbed, and matters will, we fear, be worse before they are better.

CAPTAIN WILKS AND MESSRS. MASON AND SLIDELL.

We this week present our readers with Portraits of the three individuals whose names have been most prominent in connection with the recent outrage on our flag on board the Trent.

COMMODORE WILKS.

Commodore Charles Wilks, the Captain of the San Jacinto at the time when she overhauled the Trent, is a native of New York, of which State he is a citizen, and from which State he was appointed to the Navy. He was born about the year 1805, and at the early age of thirteen entered the naval service, his original entry therein bearing date Jan. 1, 1818. He stands, according to the last *Navy List*, No. 51 on the list of Captains, his present commission bearing date September 14, 1855. His sea-service under his present commission has been of short duration, his total sea-service being about ten years. He has been on shore and other duty about twenty-seven years, and has been unemployed about seven years, thus making his whole service under the Government of the United States about forty-four years. Previous to his present service his last duty at sea was in June, 1842. His principal employment from that time till he received the command of the San Jacinto was upon special duty at Washington.

Captain Wilks is also noted as an explorer and navigator, having been appointed by the United States Government to the command of the naval expedition got up for the purpose of exploring the countries bordering on the Pacific and Southern Oceans. At this time his command consisted of a brig, two war-sloops, and two smaller vessels, as tenders, Charles Wilks having charge of the whole. Starting from New York, he pursued his route, via Cape Horn, toward Australia and the neighbouring islands. He visited Singapore, Borneo, the Sandwich Islands, and the upper part of Oregon, &c., and returned to New York during the year 1842. This expedition lasted four years, having commenced in 1838. For the interesting discoveries made by the explorer the learned Geographical Society of London presented him with a gold medal, as a memento of their appreciation of his labours. Captain Wilks has published several works on geographical research, the one on Western America being valuable as a volume for reference, the statistics, maps, and drawings being of the highest order.

A London daily contemporary says that on the exploring expedition above referred to projected in 1838, and the command of it offered to Captain Wilks, "he agreed to repair to London in order to obtain information and to procure the best nautical instruments and other scientific aids; but he suspended his acceptance of the command till he should be satisfied that he should have adequate powers and support. In London he was welcomed with a kindness which made a deep impression on him, as appears in his narrative, and as his English friends do not forget. He is by marriage a relative of Lord Jeffrey. He was cordially aided and advised by the Admiralty, and a good deal of attention was naturally fixed on his adventure when the expedition finally started in 1838. Our readers may remember the collisions which were reported from time to time—the disputes about Antarctic discoveries, not only about the rival claims of British and American commanders, but about the actual facts of the reported American discoveries. Then there were rumours of difficulties and dissensions on board the ships of the squadron, and of great severity on the commander's part in suppressing mutiny. He spoke on that occasion as he speaks now. He publicly said that he meant to do his duty—that he believed he had done it—and that if he was wrong he was ready to bear the consequences. The whole transaction exhibited the character of the man—loyal to duty and to his Government, conscientious and courageous. His complaints of enemies on every hand, and of their machinations, seem to show a radical incapacity for propitiating other men's judgment and feelings. It could be nothing worse than was thus indicated, for he is a man of generous spirit and amiable temper. Conscientious and amiable as he is, he was brought before successive courts-martial on his return from the expedition; and for three weeks a court of thirteen members was engaged in investigating eleven charges, expanded into thirty-six specifications, against Commodore Wilks's acts at various periods of the long voyage."

On the arrival of the San Jacinto at Boston with the Confederate Commissioners on board, a complimentary dinner was given to Capt. Wilks, and, in reply to the toast of his health, he said that previous to his decision to act as he did he consulted all the authorities—Kent, Wheaton, and Vattel—and satisfied himself that written despatches from a belligerent were contraband on a neutral vessel; and he considered that, as rebel Ambassadors must be the embodiment of despatches, it was his duty to arrest their progress, unless they could show proper passports from the Federal Government. This they could not do, and he detained them in his custody. He was satisfied that the Trent was a legal prize of great value to his ship if taken, but there had been no dissenting voice on board his vessel to the wisdom of the course he pursued. In the process of the arrest he was glad to say everything was conducted properly, and nothing occurred which would not do honour to the American Navy.

THE HON. JAMES M. MASON

was born on the 3rd of November, 1798, on Annotan Island, in the county of Fairfax, Virginia, and was educated in Georgetown, Washington. In 1818 he graduated at the University of Pennsylvania, and having studied the law at the College of William and Mary, Va., commenced the practice of that profession in Winchester. He was elected a member of the House of Delegates, where he served three Sessions. In 1837 he was elected to Congress, where he greatly distinguished himself. In 1847 he was elected to the Senate, re-elected in 1849, and again in 1855. He is chiefly famous as chair-

man of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. On the commencement of the present rebellion he cast in his lot with the Confederates, and was dispatched by Jefferson Davis as Minister Extraordinary to England. Early in October he escaped in the Theodora from Charleston, and was taken from on board the steamer Trent, by Captain Wilks, of the United States' steam-frigate San Jacinto, as already known. He is now, along with the other gentlemen captured at the same time, confined in Fort Warren, Boston.

THE HON. JOHN SLIDELL

was born in New York, in 1793, and, on reaching the age of nineteen, removed to New Orleans, where he established himself as a lawyer and practised with great success. He was appointed by General Jackson as United States' District Attorney, and was several times elected to the Legislature of Louisiana. In 1843 he was chosen representative in Congress, and while there was appointed by President Polk as Minister to Mexico. In 1853 he was elected to the United States' Senate for the unexpired term of Senator Soulé, and at the expiration of that term was re-elected for the full term of six years, and was made a member of the Committee on Naval Affairs and Foreign Relations. As he cast in his fortunes with the Secessionists, he was appointed by the Confederate Government Minister Extraordinary to the Court of France, and escaped, with his friend Mason, in the Theodora, the vigilance of the blockade off Charleston, only to be captured on board the British steamer on his way to Europe by Captain Wilks. Mr. Slidell is considered as one of the ablest men in America.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Imperial family have returned to the Tuilleries from Compiègne.

The *Patrie* announces the departure of General Scott from Paris for America, whither he has been called by an urgent despatch from the Washington Government; and other papers assert that the American Minister of Marine has addressed a letter to Captain Wilks, entirely approving of his conduct. These statements may be taken for what they are worth.

The *Ami de la Religion* has received a first warning for having published an article entitled "Reform in Russia," "which," states the warning, "under the pretext of criticising the reforms of a foreign Government, contains an attack against the French Constitution."

There is very little news of general interest from Paris. The public are waiting with anxiety the discussion in the Senate on the projected *Senatus Consultum*. Though the Senate will meet on Monday next, it will probably be the middle of the week before the debate commences. The Government have at length taken one step in the way of retrenchment—orders have been given to suspend the construction of one iron-cased frigate and two floating batteries.

Count Walewski, Minister of State, has issued an order to the effect that the text of plays, as they appear after the official signature of censorship, is to be rigidly adhered to. No actor must interpolate a word; no stage business of the most trivial character must be performed that has not previously received official sanction. The penalty of disobedience is withdrawal of the licence. Count Walewski affects in these restrictions to be the protector of public morality, but we are inclined to suspect that it is rather some occasional sly political hits that are extemporised that disturb his equanimity.

In reference to the American difficulty the official journal, in its summary of news, says:—

"The attitude of the people of England and of the London press increases in firmness, and resolution. The dilemma which could not be avoided has been accepted without hesitation, and, by the force of arms, that satisfaction will be acquired which could not be procured by diplomatic means. Discussion is left aside. To the arguments of General Scott these simple words are replied:—'Give back the guests of England whom you have made prisoners, and then we will discuss the point with you.'"

PORTUGAL.

The new King of Portugal has announced his approaching marriage with the daughter of the Prince of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen and sister of the late Queen. The Princess is just sixteen years old.

ITALY.

The most important matter in connection with Italian affairs is the debate in the Parliament on the state of Rome and Naples, which will be found noticed elsewhere.

Garibaldi has already returned to his island home. Before leaving Turin he had a lengthened interview with the King, and also one with Signor Rattazzi. After quitting Turin he proceeded to Genoa, and there embarked at once for Capri. If his mission to Turin had any special political object, no hint of its nature seems to have transpired.

Father Passaglia delivered his inaugural address at the Turin University on Saturday. He was received by a numerous audience with much enthusiasm.

General Cialdini is described as being somewhat unwell. There would be nothing alarming in the announcement of his indisposition, but there is something exceedingly alarming in the announcement of the means taken to restore him to health: he has been already bled twice. Remembering the fate of Cavour, perhaps Cialdini would do well to trust himself to the disease rather than to the remedy.

It is announced that twenty-nine brigands, among whom was José Borges, have been shot or killed near Tagliacozzo.

An eruption of Vesuvius took place near Torre del Greco on the 9th. This eruption was of a more threatening character than any that has taken place for a long period. The intelligence received states that the inhabitants are taking to flight; that nearly all the houses are damaged; and that the stream of lava is twenty-eight palms in depth, and three-quarters of a mile broad: the sensation is immense.

A political demonstration took place last week at the Aliberti Theatre, Rome, on the occasion of a benefit to an actor named Savoia. The theatre, which is usually a desert, was crammed the moment the doors were opened. As the curtain rose for the first scene of a piece called "L'Ortolana del Porto," a tempest of applause burst forth, the occasion for which was a salad, consisting of very green stuff, flanked with slices of red and white carrots—the three colours were hailed as being those of the Italian flag. When Signor Savoia made his appearance he was greeted with energetic cries of "Evviva Savoia!" The noise brought forward a dozen Pontifical gendarmes, at the sight of whose uniforms the evvivas were redoubled, and were mingled with shouts of "Evviva the King of Italy!" "Evviva Garibaldi!" and "Turn out the blackguards!" The gendarmes then began to play with the hilts of their swords to terrify the audience. This manoeuvre produced silence; but a few moments later showers of little square bits of paper descended from the boxes and gallery into the pit, on which pellets were written in red ink the obnoxious words "Evviva Savoia!" The police then cleared the pit and made several arrests. A great crowd assembled outside the theatre, and at midnight they made for the Corso, but were turned back by French gendarmes, after which they gradually dispersed. Several arrests were made in the course of the night.

AUSTRIA.

The official organ of the Austrian Government states that the budget will be immediately submitted to the Council of the Empire. But in making this announcement it is denied that the finances of the Austrian empire are in an embarrassed condition. The wants of the State for the next few months are described as being fully satisfied, and the taxes are said to be coming in better than ever.

The Austrian Government has received another check in Hungary. The High Court of the Kingdom, composed of men exclusively attached to the dynasty, has protested against the rescript relating to military jurisdiction, whose mission and duties it declares are "the most flagrant violation of the Constitution and laws of the country."

The Second Palatine and the Commissioner of Public Safety have been brought into Pesth in fetters, in order to be tried before a court-martial on a charge of high treason. It is asserted that the First Palatine, Count Syparyi, is also accused of high treason.

A few days back the Viennese papers were informing the world that the loyal zeal of the candidates for public functions in Hungary was so great that the sole difficulty of the Lieutenant-Governor was how to make a selection, and now we have it announced that any Hungarian functionary refusing to co-operate with the Government will have eighteen soldiers quartered in his house to bring him to reason. These statements seem somewhat at variance with each other, and it seems difficult to understand how such measures should be necessary, if all the difficulties between the Government and the Hungarians are in a fair way of settlement by mutual concession, as has been recently ostentatiously announced by the Austrian organs.

PRUSSIA.

The elections in Prussia seem to have given a most decided triumph to the Liberals and the progressive party. The Feudal party has suffered so complete a defeat that it may be said to be almost entirely extinguished, so far as the new House of Representatives is concerned. In Berlin not a single candidate belonging to the Conservative party has been chosen, while a candidate professing bold democratic views has been elected by two separate electoral divisions. Among the candidates elected at Berlin is M. Twesten, who was recently made conspicuous by the duel in which he was engaged with M. Manteuffel, the King's Aide-de Camp. At Königsberg, the scene of the late coronation, M. Simson, who was President of the former Chamber, has been rejected in favour of a Democrat whose opinions bear what is considered in Prussia a very pronounced character. The new Chamber will unquestionably wear a very different aspect from that which the House of the past Session presented. The approaching meeting of the Chambers is expected to be marked by a severe struggle between the old Feudal and Absolutist party and the members of the Liberal and Progress party. The Camarillas are said to have been making attempts to persuade the King to provide for the anticipated and unavoidable event of a dissolution of the Democratic Second Chamber; but his Majesty replied that, as in duty bound, he would govern with the representatives of the country. This promises well; but yet fears were entertained of the attempts of the retrograde party to overturn the constitutional element.

GERMANY AND DENMARK.

The Prussian and Austrian Governments having arrived at an understanding on the Danish question, the Prussian Cabinet has just replied to the Danish note of Oct. 26, informing the Cabinet of Copenhagen that it does not regard its offers as satisfactory, and urging it to make more acceptable propositions.

SWEDEN.

Letters from Stockholm affirm that the King of Sweden has resolved to introduce a full reform into the Swedish Constitution, one of the most antiquated and cumbrous in its system of any existing in Europe. The legislative power is exercised in Sweden by a Diet composed of four distinct orders—the nobility, the clergy, the bourgeoisie, and the peasants—who meet very rarely, and hold their deliberations separately. The King, it is said, proposes to have a system of representation and legislation corresponding with that now adopted in all European countries which claim to evince political enlightenment.

RUSSIA AND POLAND.

An important step on the road of self-government has just been made in Russia. An Imperial ordinance has been issued creating a responsible Council of Ministers, with whom the Emperor will henceforth consult and deliberate on all important matters relating to the Government of the empire. This important change, it is asserted, will shortly be followed by a fundamental reorganisation of the Council of the Empire, which will be endowed with legislative powers and its ranks be recruited by new members from the official and bureaucratic world. Meanwhile the situation of affairs does not seem to improve. It is said that the peasants are discontented, and the advanced parties are organising themselves. Accounts from St. Petersburg state that a revolutionary committee, calling itself the Veliko-Russe (the Great Russian), has been discovered, and that the chief was a General, who, with other members, is said to have been arrested. But internal embarrassments do not prevent the Russian Government from displaying in Poland rare foresight. They have just adopted two measures which testify a touching solicitude for the patriots of the two sexes who may be arrested for taking part in national demonstrations. One permits the authorities to collect funds to prepare prisons intended especially for ladies; and the second allows money to be procured for purchasing 2000 lambskins for the use of the persons who may be transported to Siberia.

The condemnation of Archdeacon Bialobrzescski, who is nearly dying in the prison hospital, to ten years' transportation to Siberia, has added to the excitement of the people. The advent of the Marquis Wielopolski, the rumour of whose resignation has been contradicted, as Civil Governor of Warsaw, was looked forward to with much hope. Seven Jewish and eight Christian students of the medical faculty of the University of Warsaw have been condemned to serve as common soldiers in the Russian corps-d'armée in Orenburg. The offences for which these young men and others have been condemned are of the most trifling character. One of them "tore down from a street corner the notice forbidding the public to assemble before the churches;" another "effaced a placard on the wall of the cemetery announcing the state of siege;" a third is thus sentenced because "in reading the official placards he spat on the ground and made a gesture of contempt." The disciplinary companies, or military bagnios, form the most terrible punishment which is known in Russia; "Kamschatka, the mines," says a French paper, "are nothing in comparison."

TURKEY.

There have been several Ministerial changes at Constantinople within the last few days, but their particular causes and effects do not greatly interest the Western world. A matter of more interest is that a great monetary panic is said to prevail in that city, and that the Bourse had been closed.

INDIA.

The news from India is very satisfactory. The papers enter into full details of the ceremonies attending the investiture of the native Princes with the Order of the Star of India on the anniversary of her Majesty's assumption of the Indian empire. The country is everywhere peaceful, the prospects of the harvest are good, and the ravages of the cholera, except in the kingdom of Cabul, are everywhere subsiding. The administration of Lord Canning, which opened with the horrors of the mutiny, appears about to close in the peaceful calm of a general contentment.

THE AMERICAN MAILS DURING WAR.—Considerable anxiety prevails as to the period which will be allowed for mail communication with America in case of a declaration of war. This matter, however, has been well provided for in a convention concluded between the two countries, dated the 15th December, 1858, when Mr. Polk was President of the United States and Lord Palmerston was at the Foreign Office. By this it is stipulated that, in case of war between the two nations, the mail-packets of the two services shall continue their navigation "without impediment or molestation until six weeks after a notification shall have been made on the part of either of the two Governments, and delivered to the other, that the service is to be discontinued, in which case they shall be permitted to return freely and under special protection to their respective ports."

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

At the date of the latest intelligence from America the burning of the Harvey Birch by the Nashville was known, but the papers only publish the telegram announcing the fact, without any comment whatever.

Reports from Port Royal state the Federal troops had taken possession of the enemy's works at St. Helena Sound, about fifteen miles north of Port Royal. The works had been abandoned and the guns removed. Fort Palaski was said to be at the mercy of the Federals whenever they desire to take it. If so, why don't they?

No new feature had developed itself as to the Trent affair, save that Mr. Elwin James had delivered an opinion on the matter, which will not count for much; and that there seems an anxious desire to make it be understood that Captain Wilks had no instructions from his Government, but acted on his own responsibility entirely.

It is stated that the requirements of the Federal Government during next year will make it necessary to ask Congress for an appropriation to the amount of 160,000,000 dols.

Beyond rumours, there is little news from America up to the date of the latest advices as to the progress of the war. The army on the Potomac has neither been moved forward nor were any arrangements being made for hitting the troops during the winter. It was thought, therefore, that a winter campaign was contemplated.

There were reports of a bombardment of Pensacola; but the accounts regarding it are conflicting and meagre. It is represented that the Federals commenced the bombardment from Fort Pickens on the 24th ult., and that the frigates Colorado and Niagara participated, but were ultimately hauled off, very much damaged. The latest accounts from Confederate sources state that the walls of Fort Pickens were breached and that the firing had ceased. They also claim that the Confederate loss was little or nothing, while that of the Union forces was heavy. The Pensacola Navy-yard was on fire three times, but the flames were subdued. Later accounts state that the Navy-yard had been destroyed, that Pensacola had been completely evacuated by the Confederates, and that General Bragg had sent for reinforcements. Five Federal vessels which assisted Fort Pickens in the bombardment of Pensacola are reported to have been riddled with shot.

Generals Price and McCulloch were concentrating their forces at Springfield, Missouri. The Confederates have burnt Warsaw, Missouri, in order to prevent the Federals making winter quarters there.

The Kentucky Confederate State Convention had passed a Secession ordinance. A similar course had been taken by the State Legislature of Missouri.

The message of the President will not belong. It is intended to be a plain business document, setting forth the condition of public affairs, and the policy of the Administration, and referring for details to the reports of the several heads of departments, which are to be unusually full and complete in all particulars.

The Secretary of War has notified to the Governor of Maine that an officer will immediately be appointed to report on the seacoast defences of that State.

General McClellan reviewed 70,000 men at Washington on the 20th ult., being the largest body of troops ever reviewed on the American continent.

Large reinforcements for General Sherman's naval expedition and two new expeditions under Generals Butler and Burnside were to move in a few days.

Twenty-five vessels which are to be sunk at the entrance of a Southern harbour had sailed, laden with stones.

The Union men of North Carolina have established a Provisional State Government at Hatteras.

The Confederate Congress has passed a resolution for removing the seat of government from Richmond to Nashville.

It is asserted that some 25,000 acres of land which Mr. Slidell has been found to own in Minnesota will be confiscated by the Federal Government.

THE WASHINGTON CABINET AND THE SLAVE QUESTION.

The division in the Cabinet in reference to the treatment of fugitive and captured slaves has now reached such a point that Secretary Cameron does not hesitate to lay down instructions to military commanders which are opposed by his colleagues. These differences were openly stated the other night at a quasi public and semi-official supper to Mr. Prentice—the Sydney Smith of American journalists—whose paper, the *Louisville Journal*, has done good service to the Federal cause; and when Mr. Cameron expressed his opinion that the negroes should be rendered serviceable by putting arms in their hands, Mr. Smith, Secretary for the Home Department, declared his colleague's sentiments were opposed to the policy of the Administration. It may well be that Mr. Lincoln is obliged to act with prudence in the face of the Democratic party, which, stricken down for a moment and stunned, has not only recovered life and activity, but is rapidly assuming all its ancient strength and proportions. It is idle to pretend for a moment, in the light of the declarations of that party, that every guarantee will not be given to slavery if the North triumphs, so far as the influence of that party can secure it. At present the cry for the Union overpowers the voices of the contending factions; but if the South be subjugated there will be a renewed struggle over the prostrate body; one will seek to destroy and then to incorporate the carcass—the other by dainty treatment and caresses will endeavour to restore it to its former health and take it as a partner for life. If failure ensues, then will come the fierce recriminations of the disappointed, and there is every prospect that in the Congress which is so soon to meet the struggle will be commenced with great asperity. Upon the most important question which can arise—the very base of all adjustment—the Government of the United States has no fixed policy, and confines itself to vague generalities in order to please both parties, while its officers act on different principles in different States, and the Secretary of War issues instructions to one General which are counteracted by the proceedings of another. General Halleck, the new commander of the Western troops, has issued orders that no fugitive slaves shall be allowed to enter the lines under any pretence. At Fortress Monroe they are cheerfully received. At Port Royal their presence is encouraged, and their services are freely used in the works. At Boston a mass meeting of Germans has approved Fremont's proclamation and policy, and others in different places have done the same.—*Times Special Correspondent.*

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT DAVIS.

Mr. Jefferson Davis has delivered his message to the Confederate Congress. The document is very decided and firm in tone, and says that, after seven months, the Federals have failed to extend their occupancy of Southern soil. At many points they have been driven to the defensive. The military means and financial condition of the Confederates are stronger now than at the commencement of the struggle. He praises the efforts made by the people of Missouri, and defends the occupancy of Kentucky. He says the financial system has worked well, and promises good results for the future. The system of the issue of Treasury notes has fully answered expectations. If the Confederates husband their means and make judicious use of their resources, it would be difficult to fix a limit to the period during which they could carry on the war against the Federals. The reconstruction which the Federals seek to effect by arms becomes more and more impossible. The causes which induced the separation not only remain in full force but have been strengthened. The Confederates shrink with aversion from the bare idea of renewing the connection with the North. The South will be content to live at peace with the North, but the separation is final.—

When they see a President making war without the consent of Congress—when they behold Judge's threatened because they maintain the writ of *habeas corpus*, so sacred to freemen—when they see justice and law

trampled under the armed heel of military authority and upright men and innocent women dragged to distant dungeons—when they find all this tolerated and applauded by a people who had been in the full enjoyment of freedom but a few months ago, they believe that there must be some radical incompatibility between such a people and themselves. With such a people we may be content to live at peace; but the separation is final, and for the independence we have asserted we will accept no alternative. The nature of the hostilities which they have waged against us must be characterised as barbarous whenever it is understood. They have bombarded undefended villages, without giving notice to women and children to enable them to escape, and, in one instance, selected the night as the period when they might surprise them most effectually, whilst asleep and unsuspecting of danger. Arson and rapine, the destruction of private houses and property, and injuries of the most wanton character, even upon non-combatants, have marked their forays along their borders and upon our territory. We ought to have been astonished by these things that they were disposed to make war upon us in the most cruel and relentless spirit, yet we were not prepared to see them fit out a large naval expedition with the confessed purpose not only to pillage, but to incite a servile war in our midst. If they convert their soldiers into incendiaries and robbers, and involve us in a species of war which claims non-combatants, women, and children as its victims, they must expect to be treated as outlaws and enemies of mankind. There are certain rights of humanity which are entitled to respect even in war, and he who refuses to regard them forfeits his claims, if captured, to be considered as a prisoner of war, and must expect to be dealt with as an offender against all law, human and Divine.

Messrs. Slidell and Mason, commissioned to represent the Confederacy at foreign Courts, have been seized while under the protection and within the dominion of neutral nations. The claims of the United States to seize them in the streets of London would have been as well founded as their seizure on board the Trent. Had they been malefactors their arrest could not have taken place on board British ships except according to the law provided for the extradition of criminals. The Confederates, though they asked no aid from foreign Powers, perhaps had a right to inquire if the European doctrine, that a blockade to be binding must be effective, was to be generally applied, or only in particular cases. Evidence will be laid before the European Governments of the total inefficiency of the blockade. Mr. Davis continues:—

In conducting this war we have sought no aid and proffered no alliance offensive and defensive abroad. We have asked for a recognised place in the family of nations; but in doing so we have demanded nothing for which we did not offer a fair equivalent. The advantages of intercourse are mutual among nations, and in seeking to establish diplomatic relations we were only endeavouring to place that intercourse under the regulations of public law. Although it is true that the cotton supply from the Southern States could only be totally cut off by the subversion of our social system, yet it is plain that a long continuance of this blockade might, by a diversion of labour and investment of capital in other employments, so diminish the supply as to bring ruin upon all those interests of foreign countries which are dependent on that staple. For every labourer who is diverted from the culture of cotton in the South, perhaps four times as many elsewhere, who have found subsistence in the various employments growing out of its use, will be forced also to change their occupation. While the war which is waged to take from us the right of self-government can never attain that end, it remains to be seen how far it may work a revolution in the industrial system of the world, which may carry suffering to other lands as well as to our own. In the meantime we shall continue this struggle, in humble dependence upon Providence, from whose searching scrutiny we cannot conceal the secrets of our hearts, and to whose rule we confidently submit. For the rest we shall depend upon ourselves. Liberty is always won where there exists the unconquerable will to be free, and we have reason to know the strength that is given by a conscious sense not only of the magnitude but of the righteousness of our cause.

THE CONTRABANDS.

In the many discussions which the slave question has brought about there has not as yet been elicited a particle of evidence that the slaves of the South would accept freedom and arms, or would fight for the Union against their masters. In the Beaufort district, the site of the rice plantations, where it has been said that slavery was more painful and oppressive than in any other part of the South, it is abundantly manifest that no large numbers of them come into the camp, although the correspondents describe them as working in the fields on the plantations which their masters have deserted. There is every reason to believe that a large majority of the slaves are firmly attached to the families they serve. The fugitive slaves who have allied themselves to the forces in St. Louis proved to be the worst enemies to the cause they profess to have espoused, as appears from the following telegram from that city:—"General Halleck has issued orders that, in consequence of important information respecting the number and condition of our forces being conveyed to the enemy by fugitive slaves, no such persons shall hereafter be permitted to enter the lines of any camp or any forces on the march, and any now within such lines to be immediately excluded therefrom." At Fortress Monroe, too, it was discovered very soon after the breaking out of hostilities that the negroes there were secretly giving information to the enemy. If this is the way the black population of the South serve the cause of the Union, the less we have of them the better.—*New York Journal of Commerce.*

IRELAND.

THE DISTRESS IN THE WEST.—GOVERNMENT AID.—Over £1000, being portion of the reserved fund of the late Loan Fund Board of Clonane, has been placed by the Irish Executive in the hands of Mr. C. De Gernon, resident magistrate of Mohill, for the purchase of fuel, food, and clothing, for distribution among the poor in his district, where great destitution at present prevails. Mr. De Gernon has entered actively upon the charitable duty assigned him. Clonane, where the people are suffering most, is the property of Sir Morgan Crofton, Bart., father of the late Colonel Crofton, who was murdered lately at Preston by a private of his regiment. Sir Robert Peel, in reply to a communication from the Mayor and Corporation of Dublin, says, in reference to the distress in the west:—"It is very satisfactory for me to add that the Irish Executive has been for months in communication with various local bodies and with persons most capable of obtaining reliable information as to the districts referred to in the proposed memorial; and the Government is perfectly satisfied that the poor law is adequate to meet every pressure that may reasonably be expected to fall upon the unions."

THE LATE MURDER IN DUBLIN.—John Molloy, the unfortunate man who lately murdered one of his children and attempted the life of another and of his wife and sister, under the melancholy circumstances reported at the time, was last week tried for the offence at the Court of Commission, Dublin. He pleaded "Not guilty," and was acquitted on the ground of insanity.

MILITARY ACTIVITY IN IRELAND.—The 1st battalion of the Rifle Brigade, having received orders to prepare for Canada, are hourly expecting to embark. The men express the greatest satisfaction at the prospect of entering upon active service. Orders have been received at the recruiting depot, Aldborough House Barracks, Dublin, to commence recruiting forthwith for all regiments of the Line, with the exception of the 86th and 87th and those serving in India. Recruiting is also open for the Royal Artillery. The 1st battalion Rifle Brigade have been medically inspected at Richmond Barracks by the principal medical officer as to their fitness for service.

THE YOUNG IRELANDERS AND THE AMERICAN DIFFICULTY.—A public meeting of an extraordinary character was held in Dublin on Thursday night week. It was convened for the purpose of considering the Anglo-American crisis in relation to Irish affairs. The O'Donoghue presided, and speeches were delivered full of sympathy with America, and pretty plainly intimating what were the feelings and aspirations of the anti-English party in Ireland. Several resolutions were passed declaring that as the population of America was largely composed of Irishmen, and the great Republic had given them a generous asylum, Ireland would not be an indifferent spectator to a struggle between England and America; and urging upon all Irishmen the duty of a "united rally for the old cause of their country." A committee to consider the advisability of an organisation was appointed. The O'Donoghue was elected chairman of the committee, which is to consist of twenty-one members besides the officers. It would seem that union is not the special characteristic of the Irish sympathisers with America, any more than it is that of their friends on the other side of the Atlantic. The committee appointed to carry out the resolutions of the above meeting have already rescinded one of the resolutions passed; and a gentleman named Plunkett, who was elected a member of the said committee, has intimated that his name was used without his consent, and that he decidedly declines to act.—Mr. William Smith O'Brien has published a letter, addressed to Mr. Seward, in which he takes it for granted that the seizure of the Confederate Commissioners was a deliberate affront to England. He desires, however, that North and South should patch up their quarrel; and he promises that, this done, they may act as

they like, as England, knowing how slight is the hold she has upon the affections of the Irish and Canadians, and how eager Louis Napoleon is to have a dash at her, would shrink from an appeal to the sword.

THE IRISH MARRIAGE LAW.—The Judge of the Ecclesiastical Court in Ireland a day or two ago pronounced a marriage between a Roman Catholic and a Protestant, which had been celebrated by a Roman Catholic priest, null and void. In doing so he vindicated the reasonableness of the law which declares the nullity of such marriages. The Protestant clergyman, he said, submit to certain restrictions in their celebration of marriage which are all framed in the interests of the duty, and intended to prevent persons, whether male or female, from being entrapped into improper marriages. The Roman Catholic clergyman have always refused to submit to these restrictions, and insist on celebrating marriage without notice in any place or at any hour. As the Roman Catholic duty submit to this law does not interfere so far as they are concerned; but it does not follow that they are to extend their ministrations in forms so liable to abuse to persons who are not of their communion. When the Roman Catholic priests consent to be under the same regulations in celebrating marriage as Protestants their marriages will be held valid with all classes of her Majesty's subjects.

THE LINEN TRADE IN IRELAND.—Business in the north of Ireland consequent upon many of the usual markets for linens having been closed by the war in America, is in a very bad state. Some of the millowners are working short time, and others, private advices allege, have had to borrow money from the Loan Fund Board to keep themselves afloat until better times arrive.

GLASNEVIN GARDENS.—From a report furnished by Mr. D. Moore, the curator of the Botanical Gardens, Glasnevin, to the council of the Royal Dublin Society, it appears that, since the opening of the gardens to the public on Sundays, on the 18th of August last, they were visited on twelve Sundays by 78,132 persons, the highest number on a single day being 15,000, on the 6th of October. He testifies that the results are of a very satisfactory nature. The people conducted themselves in the most orderly and decorous manner.

SCOTLAND.

THE NAVAL RESERVE AT DUNDEE.—The Dundee Naval Volunteers have exhibited the same patriotic spirit which animates their comrades on the banks of the Thames and the Tyne in declaring that they are "ready to fulfil their engagements and protect the honour of their flag, Queen, and country, whenever called upon." Captain Beresford asked the men how long notice they would like to have? When they exclaimed, "Our bags are packed; we are ready to go at an hour's notice."

FREAKS OF LIGHTNING.—In Sutherlandshire, the other day, the lightning entered a cottage, ploughed the paved floor like a furrow, utterly destroyed the furniture, and finally escaped in various directions by passing under the foundation of the gable—by the window, breaking all the panes and flinging all the glass several yards from the house—by the doors, wrenching them off the hinges—and also by the roof, stripping off the thatch, and leaving most dismal-looking apertures. Two females of the family were sitting beside the fire, one of whom was knocked down and rendered quite insensible for a time. The fluid ran along her body, and left marks on several parts. It carried off the shoe and stocking from one of her feet. On recovering the head the chimney-lintel lying on her limbs, inflicting a serious bruise. Her eyelashes are burned off, and she still lies in a very critical state. The other was also knocked down, and flung quite unconsciously several yards backwards, but has escaped comparatively unhurt.

THE YELVERTON CASE.—This case has been occupying the attention of the Court of Session in Edinburgh for some days past. Evidence bearing on the question of marriage was adduced, but it was, generally, a repetition of that laid before the jury in the celebrated trial in Dublin. No feature worthy of special notice was brought out. Major Yelverton has been allowed a commission to take evidence in Ireland.

SUSPECTED MURDER IN INVERNESS.—On Sunday morning last the body of a young man named Cumming was found lying in the backyard of a house in an obscure street in Inverness, with a wound on his forehead and other indications of foul play having been received. An investigation is being made by the authorities; but, though the affair is enveloped in mystery, a man and his wife, of the name of Ferguson, who live in a house adjoining that in the yard of which the body was found, have been apprehended. It is alleged that Cumming had occasion to call on Ferguson on Saturday night; that it must have been late when he did so; that he was never seen alive after that; that a portion of his clothing has been found in the possession of members of Ferguson's family; and that a great disturbance and quarrelling took place in the latter's house on the night in question.

THE PROVINCES.

GAS EXPLOSION AT BIRMINGHAM.—A terrific explosion took place on Saturday evening on the premises of Mr. Barnett, grocer and druggist, Smithfield, Birmingham. About ten o'clock one of the assistants went into the cellars for some article, and shortly after his return a fearful explosion took place. The whole of the fittings of the shop were blown into the street and several persons in the shop were injured. The origin of the explosion is unknown, but is supposed to have been caused by the ignition of paraffin.

A SAD OCCURRENCE.—A very sad affair took place on Thursday week in the neighbourhood of Haywards Heath, on the London and Brighton line. The wife of a respectable farmer, in a moment of frenzy, cut the throats of her two little boys, aged respectively four and six years, and then her own. The youngest of the boys was quite dead when assistance arrived; the elder is scarcely expected to survive. The wretched mother is the least injured of the three. There is no doubt that the wounds were all inflicted by her hand, and as little that they were inflicted on an impulse of insanity. In fact, her health had for some time been the subject of uneasiness in the family, and a watch was placed over her conduct, though unfortunately not so vigilant as to prevent this most lamentable catastrophe. The name of the husband of the unhappy woman is Agate, and a cousin of his, a draper at Cuckfield, Sussex, has shot himself since the melancholy occurrence above mentioned happened.

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—Mr. Noakes, the Portswode station-master on the South-western line, was killed on Friday night week. In saving a woman from being run over by the train that left London at four p.m. he slipped on the rail, and his body was cut to pieces. Portswode is a new station which has just been opened near the ruins of St. Denys' Priory, about two miles from Southampton.

MARVELOUS DESCENT DOWN A COAL-SHAFT.—The other day a 14-barrelled barrel, whilst emptying a barrel of water at the Eskett Iron Ore Company's pit at Frizington, slipped, fell 170ft. down the shaft head foremost, but, strange to say, alighted without sustaining any injury. He owed his escape to the fact that there were ten feet of water at the bottom of the pit. His head was jammed in the mud at the bottom of the shaft, but he had presence of mind enough to press himself free; he then floated on the water, and was happily recovered not much worse for his perilous descent.

THE PEER AND THE HORSESHOE.—The ancient custom of demanding a horseshoe, or the money value of one, from a peer the first time he visits Oakham has again been put into practice. The Earl of Camperdown accompanied Lord Aveland to the recent cattle show, and the noble Earl was afterwards waited upon at Normanton Hall by the bailiff of the town, upon whom the duty falls of reminding peers of the custom. The officer left Lord Aveland's seat without a horseshoe, but with the wherewithal to purchase one, which has been duly ordered, and will in a few days be added to the already extensive collection of shoes now on the castle wall. The noble Earl is grandson of the celebrated Admiral Viscount Duncan.

FRANCE AND ITALIAN BRIGANDAGE.—A Turin paper publishes what it calls an "important fact," which has been "communicated" to the French Minister. In this note the Emperor's Government declares that it has resolved to lend efficacious assistance to the King's Government in the repression of the brigandage which has so long desolated the Neapolitan provinces, which dishonours our age, and impedes the constitution of the Kingdom of Italy, which France has recognised. The note adds that the Government has in consequence sent orders to the French troops which occupy the Pontifical States, and has recommended the Prefect of Marseilles and of other departments to watch over the Bourbon committees of whose existence they may be cognisant. Furthermore, the Imperial Government announces that it will insist upon the withdrawal of Francis II. and his Court from Rome. This happy intelligence will be received with joy throughout Italy, especially at a moment when the great questions of Naples and Rome are being discussed in the Italian Parliament.

AS BAD AS NAPLES UNDER THE BOUARBONS.—Those prisoners committed to the great prisons will die in them. It rests entirely with the President whether they are ever brought to trial or not. If he thinks it better for the public interest that such traitors as Mason and Slidell should be imprisoned for life, he can have it so. This will be the fate, probably, of most of the leading traitors. The accessories of President Lincoln will probably take the same view of it. General Jackson, when President, kept a man who had annoyed him in prison for eight years by merely ordering the district attorney to bring him to trial.—*New York Correspondent of Standard.*

MADAGASCAR AND ITS KING.

THE new King of Madagascar has succeeded to territory which must surely be of considerable importance one day, considering that it is of greater extent than the whole of France. At present the natural resources of the island have not been developed; and although "Madagascar," as it is called by the natives, was discovered by the Portuguese in 1506, and is described by Marco Polo, its features are only imperfectly known to ordinary travellers. The island lies in the Indian Sea, about 240 miles from the coast of Mozambique, from which it is separated by the Mozambique Channel. Its greatest length is about 900 miles, and the width varies from 200 to 500 miles.

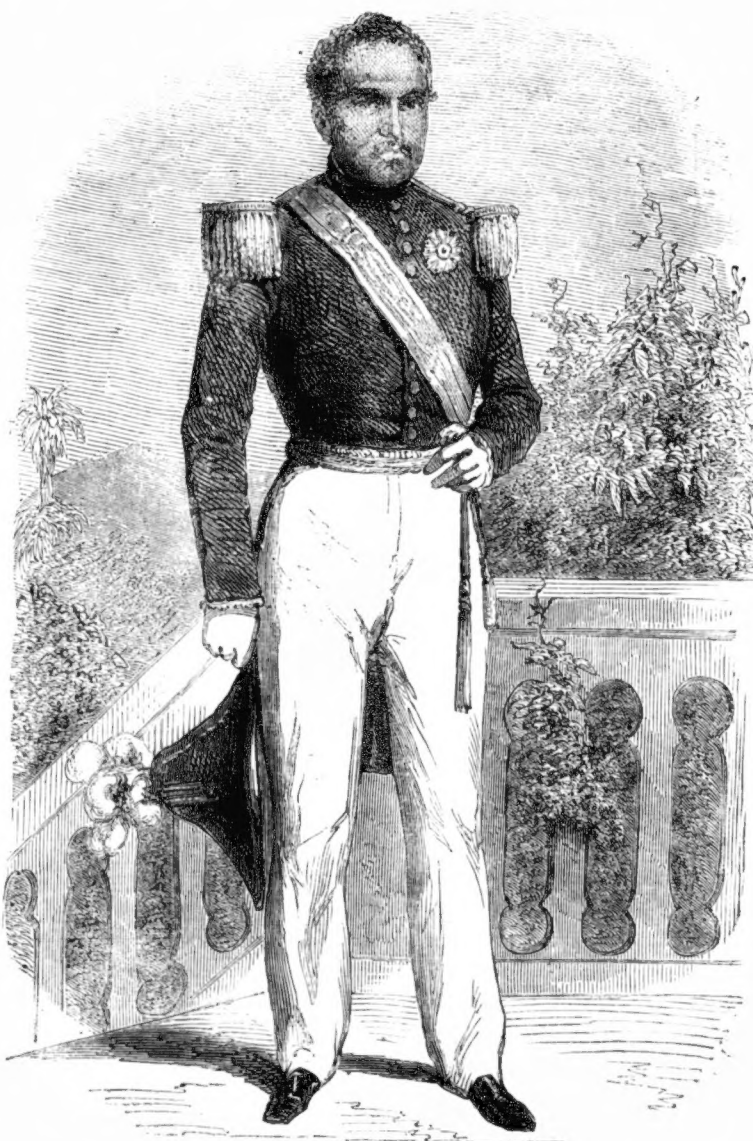
The length of the island is traversed by a mountain range, some of the summits of which reach a height of 10,000 or 12,000 feet. With this range the interior is almost occupied, and on the western coast it extends to the seashores, where the magnificent peak of Matowla rears itself between Cape Passadava and Cape Anbré. Between the latter cape and Cape St. Andrew a low, marshy plain extends along the shore and runs for some sixty or eighty miles inland—this part of the coast being admirably adapted for a commercial station on account of the bays, rivers, and harbours by which it is indented.

On the rocky eastern coast the Bay of Antengil is one of the largest harbours of the Indian Sea. The interior of the country contains numerous and extensive plains, which are excellent pasture-grounds, and generally possess a soil adapted to all kinds of tropical plants. Madagascar, indeed, contains a large proportion of fertile soil capable of producing nearly every kind of grain. Of rice, which is the principal, there are eleven varieties indigenous to the island, and it requires but little care in cultivation, growing either on high or low grounds. The other agricultural products are cassava, Indian corn, sweet potatoes, and native indigenous plants, such as yams, breadfruit, the varieties of the plantain, the native arrowroot plant, and the sagu ratia, the fibres of the leaves of which the common people formerly wove into cloth for their dresses. There are eleven different sorts of tobacco in the island; and coffee, which was introduced there by the French, has become a part of their produce. The coconut and mangrove trees are abundant along the shores. Cattle, sheep, and poultry are kept, and the island contains numbers of wild swine, while formerly wild cattle were frequently found on the western coast. The mineral wealth is supposed to be considerable.

The inhabitants of Madagascar amount to about five millions, and belong to different races in which the Malay characteristics have become mingled. The people on the shores are short, darker than mulattos, with low foreheads, broad faces, and long crisped hair; while the Hovas, who inhabit the plains in the interior, are even above the European standard in height, and vary in colour from black to copper, the latter tint being most prevalent. The dwellings of the Madagasches evince considerable progress in the arts, while their agriculture is quite equal to that of Java and Sumatra. The Hovas are skilled in the manufacture of silk and cotton dresses, in the forging of iron, and the making of steelwork and gold and silver chains.

The language of Madagascar is written in the Arabic character, but their religion is founded upon no sacred writings, and the Christian missionaries obtained considerable success in the island previous to the death of Radama in 1828. This extraordinary man, who was a sort of Madagasche Peter the Great, introduced into the island the arts and civilisation of Europe, at the same time establishing a communication with the English in Mauritius. He protected the missionaries and promoted the establishment of schools, of which at the time of his death there were more than a hundred, in which about 5000 children were instructed.

It will be remembered by many of our readers what a terrible reaction took place on the death of Radama, how idolatry was once more ascendant as the recognised religion of the State, and the Queen, who seemed to be of the true bloodthirsty type, forbade the public profession of Christianity on pain of death, confiscation of property, or slavery. Then occurred those massacres to which some of our English missionaries fell victims, and a savage reign of terror completely paralysed the results of the reign of the Hova King.



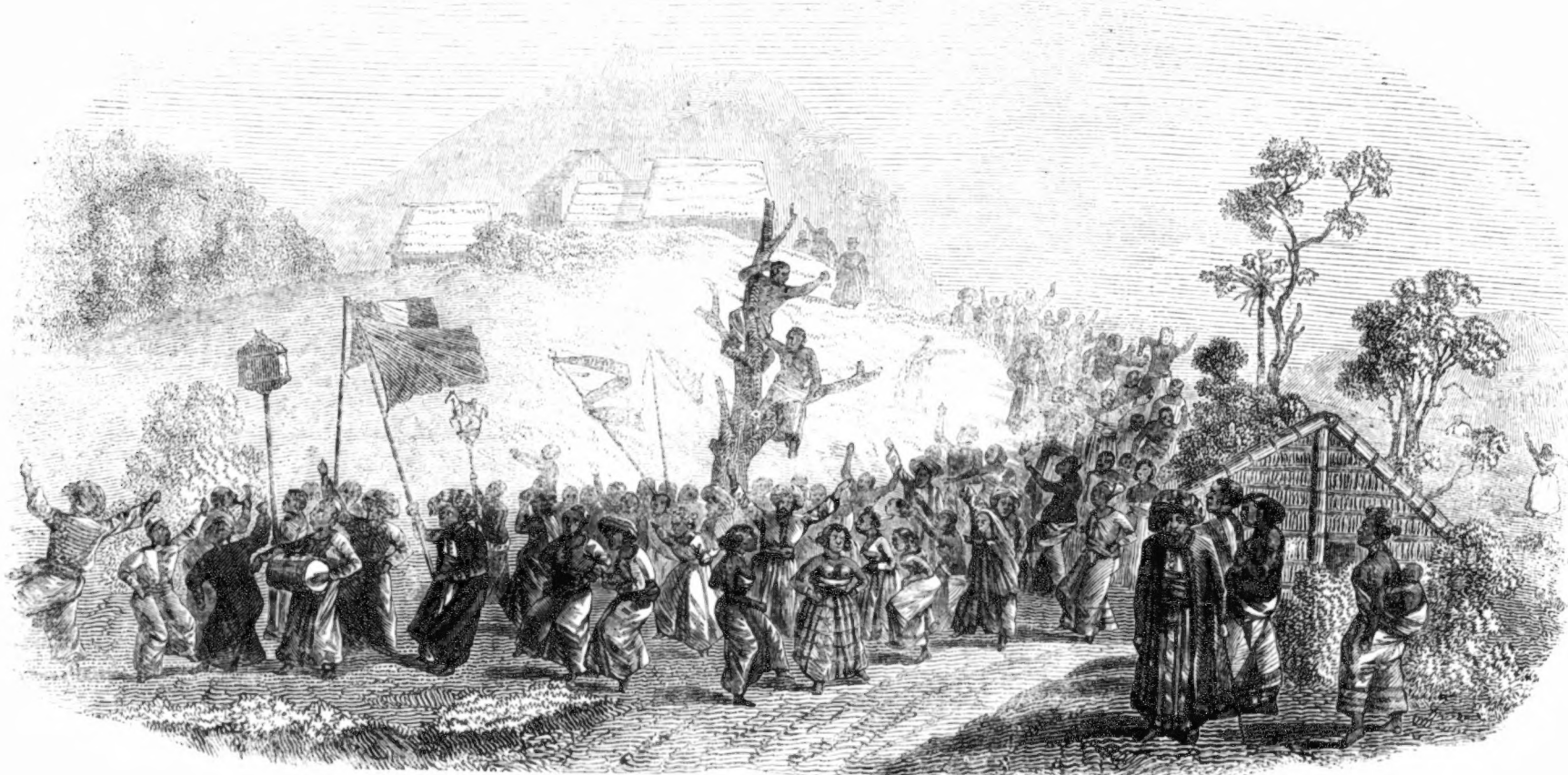
RADAMA II, KING OF MADAGASCAR.

The Queen herself has now ceased from troubling, having died on the 18th of August; but it is doubtful whether her son, Radama II., will follow the enlightened policy of his pretended father; for the present King of Madagascar was born two years after the death of Radama; but, although the real father of the child was doubtless some favourite of the crafty Ranavalo, she knew too well the power of superstition over a people who had been flung back into darkness to hesitate what course she should pursue. After visiting the tomb of her deceased husband she declared when the time arrived that the father of the infant was Radama, whose shade had appeared to her from the other world. Those who disbelieved the story were either too well off to care about gainsaying it or too small and poor a minority to make any expression of scepticism safe. So Ranavalo is dead and Radama II. sits upon the throne, having caused his cousin and rival, Ramgoussalam, to be assassinated, and with him the chief of the old Madagascar party. In prospect of his accession he ordered a right royal suit of clothes, after the pattern of the uniform of a general officer, and it is said that

accession to the throne his excellent sentiments were known and esteemed."

THE AMBASSADOR FROM MOROCCO AT MADRID.

THE Prince Muley Abbas appears to receive all the attention due to so distinguished a guest of the Court of Spain; and, although it may be supposed that the commander who suffered defeat at Tetuan must be pretty well acquainted with the efficiency and discipline of the Spanish troops, Marshal O'Donnell invited him to be present at a sham fight in the environs of Madrid (at Caravanchel), where he might behold the spectacle of a large number of troops manœuvring in an extensive space. The Prince then had ample opportunity for admiring the skill and precision with which the largest masses of men are regulated by educated military ability; and, as the chief command of the troops was confided to General Prim, it is not surprising that he who was at their head in the victories over the Moors should make little of organising them in a mere formal display. It



PROCESSION OF THE RAMADAN AT NOSSI-BÉ, MADAGASCAR.



MELAY ABBAS, ACCOMPANIED BY GENERAL PRIM, WITNESSING THE EVOLUTIONS OF SPANISH TROOPS NEAR MADRID.

would seem, however, that the Prince showed little delight, and was probably thinking of the conquest of his city with a regret similar to that of Boabdil for Granada.

He passed through all the splendours of Madrid and the numerous fêtes designed especially for his amusement with a sombre face and scarcely awakened interest. He thinks constantly of that jewel of the Moroccan crown which he so gallantly defended, and of the diplomatic mission by which he may be able to redeem it from the Spanish conquerors. It has been stated by an observer, who often watched him attentively, that only one of the amusements which he attended seemed to arouse him and to bring a laugh to his face. The credit of this achievement belongs to the equestrian performances at Prince's circus. Here the Prince and his suite greeted with shouts of laughter the traditional jocularities of the clowns, and freely applauded the horses, the costumes, and, above all, the graceful feats of the Spanish ladies of the ring. It is gratifying to know that even one exhibition succeeded in pleasing the Ambassador, who, his mission having terminated, returns to the white city, from which he has been so long unwillingly absent.

THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT ON ROME AND NAPLES.

An interesting debate has been going on for some days past in the Italian Parliament on the subjects of Rome and Naples, which it was agreed should be discussed together. M. Ricciardi, a member of the extreme party, and distinguished for his violence and the eccentric views he adopts on most questions, proposed some resolutions condemnatory of the policy of the Cabinet, and has elicited several speeches of interest and importance. The most striking of these are naturally those of Ricasoli and Ratazzi—the Premier in *posse* and *in esse*.

M. Ratazzi spoke first, and in reference to the possession of Rome, and the course the Government had pursued on that subject, said:—"It would be unjust to wish to make the Government responsible for the failure of the negotiations relative to Rome and for the disturbances in the Neapolitan provinces. Another Ministry would be in the same situation. I will not discuss the documents which have been communicated to the Chamber by the Government, as it is useless to consider whether the concessions offered to the Church were dangerous to the State, because they have been without any result. Rome is naturally, and will soon really be, the capital of Italy. I am convinced that the French Government desires that the occupation of Rome may cease. It is the interest of France to have a strong Italy as an ally. The French Government is our sincere friend. It recognised us after we had proclaimed Rome as the capital of Italy. Our adversaries are their adversaries. For myself, I entertain a firm conviction that France desires at least as much as we do that that occupation should cease. I believe a cessation of it would be to the interest of France. The occupation does not please the Liberal party in France; it does not in the least satisfy the reactionary and clerical party, who ask for much more; and it does not even please the Pontiff himself, who, very singularly, at the very time that he profits by the security which French bayonets give him, applies to Austria whenever he has need to ask for counsel. France has as much interest as we have in desiring that her troops should quit Rome. But that is not all. France ardently desires that the great fact of Italian unity should be accomplished. France, in fact, can have but one of two policies in regard to us. Either she must desire that we should be weak and divided, in order that Italy should become her humble servant; or she desires us to be united and strong, in order that our nation may be a valuable ally of her own. But if she had wished us to be weak and divided, she would never have shed her blood for us at Magenta and at Solferino. No, no; she wishes us, on the contrary, to be strong; because she has a community of interests with us, and she hopes to have us at her side in the day of danger."

Baron Ricasoli refuted the arguments of several members who maintained that the only enemy of Italy was France, and declared that he could easily prove the contrary. "The principle of non-intervention having been agreed to by France proves that her friendship is free from all pretension to supremacy. Italy is grateful to France. She must, however, place herself in a condition to act alone and without any foreign aid. The state of things in the interior of the kingdom is such as it must always be in a country that is still in a state of revolution. The revolution in Italy is more fortunate than those which have occurred in other countries. No serious disturbances can be cited, as none but common offences have been committed. Public security certainly leaves nothing to be desired. Although during the last two years we have been compelled to occupy ourselves more with political questions than with questions of the administration of the country, the forces of the little State of Piedmont could not suffice for the new kingdom. The military and police of the former Governments were corrupt, and could not be employed. We have formed new elements." With regard to the state of things in the southern provinces, he confirmed the statements contained in the circular addressed to the diplomatic agents of the Italian Government abroad, and said that General Cialdini had prevailed over the brigandage, and had retaken the Basilicata and the territory bordering on the Pontifical frontiers. Baron Ricasoli announced that a treaty had been concluded with France for the repression of brigandage. The abolition of the Lieutenantcy of Naples, he said, was the result of the adoption of the principle of administrative unification. The Lieutenantcy of Sicily would also be shortly abolished. Touching the Roman question, he said that the transformation of the Papacy must be effected by Italy in accordance with France. It was not possible to use violence, which could not bring about a solution of the question. It was necessary to persuade the Catholic mind in favour of this project of arrangement. This he was striving to do. France had not disapproved his project; she only thought it was not an opportune moment for presenting it to the Pope. Baron Ricasoli concluded by asking the Chamber for a vote either frankly approving or blaming the policy of the Government.

The Minister of War said that he preserved all that he could of the old Bourbon army when in a state of dissolution. The army of Southern Italy, which was composed of volunteers, dissolved itself, but the regimental lists had been maintained. By means of these lists an army of 40,000 men could easily be organised, more especially if Garibaldi, as the Government hoped, would take the command. The regular army numbered 262,000 men, 20,000 of whom were on active service. The new levy would give 91,000 in March next, when they should have 300,000 combatants.

The Minister of Public Works, who had just returned from a visit to Naples and Sicily, gave a long explanation respecting the condition of the southern provinces, which was received with continual applause. The speech produced a great sensation.

The Minister of Marine then spoke, and in the course of his speech assured the Chamber that Italy would shortly have a navy almost twice as strong as that of Austria.

Dr. Bertani made a lengthy speech against the Ministry, which drew forth loud protestations and many questions from several deputies. Dr. Bertani, having, in the course of his speech, asserted that on some occasions the Administration had been guilty of opening letters passing through the post, the Ministry demanded that the charge should be investigated by the Chamber. These statements of Dr. Bertani led to considerable personal animosity, after which the debate reverted to the real question before the House.

The question was put to the vote on the 11th, when an order of the day embodying the views of the Government—which of course amounts to an approval of its policy—was carried by a majority of 232 to 79.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.—His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is about to visit the Holy Land and the East. On Monday, the 16th, the Prince leaves Cambridge, and on the following evening a grand entertainment is to be given in his honour by the Earl and Countess of Hardwicke. On Wednesday, the 18th, the Prince joins the Court, and after spending the Christmas holidays with his august parents will start for the regions which from remote ages have presented such interest and attractions to Western Europeans. On his way to the East the Prince will visit Prince Leopold in his Franco-Italian retreat at Nice.

DEATH OF LADY CANNING.—We deeply regret to announce that intelligence has been received at the India Office of the death of Countess Canning, wife of the Governor-General of India. The lamented lady expired on the 18th ult. at Calcutta. The late Lady Canning was the eldest daughter of the late Lord Stewart de Rothesay, G.C.B., and Lady Elizabeth Margaret, third daughter of Philip, third Earl of Hardwicke, and was born in 1817. She married, 8th Feb. 1837, Earl Canning, then the Hon. C. J. Canning, the only son of the well-known statesman. Her ladyship was for many years Lady in Waiting to the Queen, and was deservedly much esteemed at Court. The late Countess was sister of Louisa, Marchioness of Waterford.

MR. SPURGEON ON WAR.—On Sunday morning the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon preached a very effective sermon at the newly-erected Tabernacle, selecting for the text of his discourse the 9th verse, 5th chap., Matthew—"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." The opportunity afforded by the text was made use of by the orator to make special reference to the existing state of affairs between England and America; and, while fully recognising the propriety of maintaining the right of Great Britain to defend herself against the oppression of all nations, Mr. Spurgeon insisted upon the necessity for calm forbearance towards a great country so intimately allied to us. Mr. Spurgeon wound up an impressive sermon by referring to the words of the text as applicable to every-day life. The auditory completely filled the immense building.

AMERICAN OPINIONS ON THE TRENT AFFAIR.

FEDERAL NEWSPAPERS.

We have already intimated our hope that Great Britain will claim Messrs. Mason and Slidell and their secretaries on the ground of the illegality of their capture. We could very well afford even to surrender them for the sake of the precedent and principle thus established. If Great Britain is ready for a broad acceptance of the principle that free ships make free goods, it does not become us to object. But there must be no juggle in the premises, but the clear and simple recognition of a rule of action henceforth obligatory on both parties. Nothing is more certain than that Great Britain has often acted to our prejudice on the opposite principle to that which she must assert in demanding the liberation of Mason and Slidell. To instance but a single case, that of Henry Laurens is completely in point. Mr. Laurens was a leading rebel against the sovereignty of Great Britain, as Mason and Slidell are rebels against that of the United States. He was a leader in our fathers' revolution, as they are in that of Jefferson Davis. He was sent to Holland to solicit her aid in our struggle, as they were dispatched by Jefferson Davis to France and England.—*New York Tribune*.

The arrest of Messrs. Slidell and Mason, with various antecedent and concurrent events, conspires to force on the American Government the consideration of the status of the rebel confederacy. With respect to belligerent rights, it cannot be longer postponed. A cave has arisen which can only be decided by the rules of international law relating to belligerent rights and obligations, and in which we lose a great advantage if we do not concede to the South the belligerent character which has been recognised by foreign nations. The right of visitation exercised by Captain Wilks is an act of war, and war presupposes two belligerent parties. If we are not prosecuting war against a belligerent Power, our cruisers have no shadow of a right to detain vessels of a neutral Power and search them on the high seas. If there has been any infringement of international rights, the United States will make an apology. If Captain Wilks is not justifiable by the law of nations, it cannot wound the national honour to make a suitable apology.—*New York World*.

Some of our contemporaries are frightened out of their wits at the plain talk of the *Herald*, and are down upon their marrowbones before the British lion. They will have it that we are doing our utmost to bring England to the rescue of Jefferson Davis, or that we are wickedly getting up another *Herald* sensation, regardless of consequences. All this is very absurd, for we can assure our fancy stock-jobbing contemporaries that, while England can be brought to reason and justice only through an intrepid and fearless policy, the readiest way to a rupture with her is by showing the white feather.—*New York Herald*.

None save a fool, or, what is worse, none save a rebel at heart, would assert the act of Captain Wilks to be a ground for war. It is too ridiculous for a sane man to entertain such a proposition, even to himself. We have intentionally committed no offence towards England. Captain Wilks had no instructions whatever to board an English ship for any purpose. He did so upon his own responsibility. The Government have not yet disavowed the act. If it should turn out, as it probably will, that the ship violated the law of nations and the Queen's proclamation, then Captain Wilks will be fully sustained. Till this point is decided, we hold very properly the rebels who are guilty of an offence the just punishment of which is death. If England wanted ever so much a pretext for war, we have so far given her none. We have the law technically on our side. If not, we have most fully in spirit. This fact is enough to drown any resentment that might otherwise arise. What is the act of which we complain? That the British steamer made itself for the time a rebel ship, in transporting their commissioners, with their credentials and despatches—articles contraband of war—across the ocean. The penalty for such an act is confiscation, in any neutral port. Suppose, which we cannot conceive possible, that some technicality interposed would have saved the ship, if seized, from condemnation, is the nature of the act changed in the slightest degree? Clearly not. Is England or any other country going to take advantage of a quibble, while the right is most manifestly against her, to rush into a war with a nation with which it is in the closest relation of amity and commerce—one of her own family—a nation with no real cause of difference exists—into a war from which not the slightest advantage is to be gained, but one fraught with tenfold greater harm to herself than the United States? The whole idea is too absurd for a moment's thought.—*New York Times*.

What the British may do on demand is a serious question not yet to be dismissed quite so easily as the press affects to believe. We must say, however, that if Britain sought a pretext for bringing on war, as she is perpetually accused of doing, there is now an opportunity for her to claim such reparation as would not be granted, and for pushing the dispute to hostilities.—*New York Tribune*.

A CONFEDERATE OPINION.

This extraordinary act of the Lincoln Government must be followed by important consequences. It is impossible for the English Government, without disgrace, to fail to exact the fullest reparation. If Commodore Wilks acted under orders, we do not see how Lincoln can possibly escape the most serious complications with the English Government. If it be said that England in 1812 claimed the right of visitation of our national vessels and seizure of our subjects on board, it will be replied that our Government denied the right and resisted it with war, and that England, in consequence, abandoned the practice. Nay, so sensitive have we, and so deferential has England, since been on this point, that even suspected slavers sailing under our flag have been protected by it from English visitation, although we agreed with England in denouncing the slave trade as piracy. Can England, after conceding all this to our claim, and after having so long abandoned the exercise, if she has not disavowed the right, of visitation and seizure, now submit to the hardships of a theory the benefit of which was denied her, and that, too, at the hands of the Government which denied it? Will she allow what still claims to be the Government of the United States to have the benefit and herself the disadvantage of both sides of the question? It is not possible. England has acknowledged us to be a belligerent Power and declared that she would maintain a neutrality. To allow her mail-steamers to be stopped on the ocean and persons taken from under the protection of her flag by a jurisdiction as to whose quarrel she is neutral is as much at war with all her practice and traditions as it is opposed to her honour. England, like America, has ever been a house of refuge among the nations, and the stranger under her flag has always found the protection due to her own subjects extended with all the generous sensitiveness of an honourable host. Lincoln will have to apologise and restore the status quo. We see no other alternative.—*Richmond Inquirer*.

CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS.

The honour of England, as well as the interests of the world at large, require that this outrage should be promptly resented, even at the risk of war—the Manchester men to the contrary notwithstanding. A war on the part of Great Britain with the Federal (not the United) States would be short, sharp, and decisive, and could have but one result—their severe humiliation—a lesson they would not forget for the next half century. We do trust that the spirit of England will be roused by this gross insult, and that no commercial consideration will interfere with that action which national honour imperatively demands. We shall be glad to find the Washington Government disavow this act and release the prisoners; but if not, the sooner war is proclaimed the better, as the Yankees seem determined to force it on us, and we had better have it at the time most convenient to ourselves and most inconvenient to the enemy. Canadians are ready and willing to take their part in the conflict, and to assist in vindicating the honour of the British flag. Every Canadian feels this last outrage as a personal insult.—*Toronto Herald*.

It is not difficult to foresee what the immediate consequences of such an event would be. Great Britain would recognise the Southern Confederacy, and make with it an offensive and defensive alliance. Vessels bearing the stars and stripes would be swept from the ocean, and even from the lakes of the interior. The blockade would be transferred from the Southern to the Northern coast-line. The South, which would supply cotton, and Britain, which would receive it, would both profit by the exchange. The North, deprived of its navy, and forced to withdraw its armies from its Southern to its Northern and Eastern frontiers, would collapse financially and commercially, and be speedily forced to make an ignominious peace, recognise the independence of Dixie's Land, and perhaps yield a State or two to be annexed to Canada. The Lincoln Cabinet, if they were sane, would see all this; but they do not, or they would not act so stupidly towards England. And we can only account for their acts on the supposition that they are out of their right mind, and afford examples of the truth of the classic saw, that "when the gods want to ruin their first make mad."—*Quebec Chronicle*. [The *Chronicle* then proceeds to discuss the probable effects of a war in the provinces, and urges the Canadians to at once take energetic steps to defend their soil in the event of an attack by the Yankees.]

Let it be conceded that Commodore Wilks was justified in stopping and overhauling the Trent because he supposed that despatches were on board, and there is no limit to the annoyances which Yankee Captains may give to British steamers plying to New York or Portland. The Norwegian may be stopped on her next outward voyage, and every bag and every trunk may be ransacked for Southern despatches; and so on without limit. The pretended right is boundless in its application.—*Toronto Globe*.

AN OBSERVER'S VIEW OF THE DISCUSSION.

The American papers are full of arguments, invectives, and declamations concerning the seizure of the Confederate "ambassadors"—who have, I observe, become "rebels" since they were sent to Fort Warren—all to prove that it was and is so clearly right and proper that not a word need be

said to justify the act. "England cannot, dare not, will not, must not, ought not—take any notice of the matter." If she does, "we do not care; we can, will, must, and ought to resist her to the last." But with all this use of the auxiliary verbs in words, there is very little real contentment or satisfaction felt in men's minds; the Share Market at New York certainly does not evince confidence or security. "Captain Wilks," says one paper apropos of the Wall-street fever, "had no instructions to board an English ship for any purpose. He did so on his own responsibility. The Government have not, as yet, disavowed the act." No diplomatic communication has taken place. Lord Lyons has no official knowledge of the matter. He has not opened his lips to any one connected with the Government or belonging to the United States respecting it; and the statements which have been made, ascribing conduct, and language, and bearing of all sorts to him, are the work of determined and incurable mytho-maniacs. Messrs. Mason and Slidell, Messrs. Eustis and M'Farland, have addressed a kind of protest to the Government, and have also made certain representations with respect to their incarceration; but there has been no official announcement or action of any sort between the Cabinet of Washington and the representative of her Majesty near the person of the President regarding the question on which the minds and conversation of men turn all over the States.

According to the arguments now used—and they are furnished up from all quarters—it will henceforth be desirable to prevent any vessel sailing from France or England from carrying arms, despatches, or persons employed in the service of the United States. In violation of the Queen's proclamation of neutrality, immense quantities of arms and munitions of war have been contracted for and sent to New York; "but," says the *Philadelphia Press*, "the great principle is that no neutral can do any act in aid of either belligerent."

The position of Lord Lyons is most difficult, but there need be no apprehension that he will fail to maintain the dignity of Great Britain in this remarkable crisis. Mr. Seward, I believe, in speaking of the arrest, did not consider it at all necessary to allude to the mode in which the persons of Messrs. Slidell and Mason had been transferred to the custody of the Government, and the subject will doubtless be approached with due caution and reluctance by the State Department; but I have the best reason for thinking General M'Clellan not only disapproved the conduct of the naval officer who made the capture, but expressed his opinion that the boarding and seizure could not be justified. The intelligence has, indeed, been received with something like consternation by thinking and respectable politicians, and already there are men talking of an "ample apology" and feeble reference to the right of search which has been maintained by England, and therefore cannot be, forsooth! objected to by her Government when it is practised by the vessels of a nation which has always refused to recognise it.—*Times Special Correspondent*.

A YANKEE IRONSIDES.

As long back as four-and-twenty years ago the American Federal Government recognised the importance of having armour-plated ships, and, aided by one of their best engineers, Mr. Stevens, worked out some of the chief difficulties of this method of construction, and actually commenced an enormous armour-ship at the dockyard at Hoboken, New York, in 1842. Towards the expenses of this great vessel the Federal Government at different times granted some 300,000 dollars, and Messrs. Stevens, the builders, spent about 200,000 dollars of their own money, when, finding in 1849 and 1851 that the Government was in an ultra-pacific mood, and no more money likely to be forthcoming, they wisely declined further outlay on their own account, and the works on the vessel, in consequence, gradually languished and stopped, leaving this most curious ship still on the stocks and but half finished. Now, however, public interest in the plan is revived, and, as only 500,000 dollars more is requisite to complete the vessel, the works on it are again going forward, and the American journals are already exchanging anticipatory congratulations on the havoc and devastation which this boat, when launched, will carry among its enemies far and wide. When Mr. Stevens first contemplated the idea of an armour-coated frigate he found, from experiments, that it required sixteen times the thickness of oak or teak to offer the same amount of resistance to shot as iron, and that a well-made 4-in. slab of wrought metal was equal in resistance to 5ft. 4in. of oak. According to this theory, then, the sides of our new Warriors are equal in resistance to a thickness of 8ft. 10in. of oak or teak. Mr. Stevens's object, however, was not so much to stop an enemy's shot as to have his plates at such an angle as would give them a different direction, which is another thing altogether. For this purpose he determined that the armour should not be laid at a less angle than 30 deg., and that the plates should be of 6in. thickness, which, at such a slope, he calculated would be equal in resistance to a foot in thickness placed upright. With armour of such immense solidity a deep immersion of the ship became inevitable, and to do away, therefore, with the necessity for coating her too heavily or over too large a surface, he devised a method by which the ship, when going into action, could instantly fill her compartments with water, so as to bring her down almost completely under the sea, submerging all but the funnel and the ridge or guns on the apex of the slanting armour-plates, which cover in her deck much after the fashion of a common ridge roof. Mr. Stevens, in fact, considered water as the cheapest and most thorough protection to be found against the flight of projectiles, on account of its perfect non-elasticity. His design, therefore, has been to get as much as possible of this cheap defence round his vessel, and, in fact, as we have said, to submerge her altogether, except her ridge of guns and chimney. This vessel is 420ft. long over all; 53ft. breadth of beam over all; minimum draught of water, 16ft.; draft when fully immersed, 21ft.; tonnage, 5000 tons.

The bottom part of the hull is built of rolled plates 1in. thick, tapering towards the top, where they meet the armour-plates, to 3in. The iron ribs, like those of the Warrior, are 2ft. apart throughout, and are formed by two 6in. by 3½-in. massive angle irons riveted together by their 3½-in. flanges so as to form an X. One side of the 6-in. flange is riveted to the outer skin, the other is punched for riveting to an inner skin, if, on trial, the vessel should be found to require it. The main or 21-ft. deck, as it is termed, is wood plated over with iron, strong enough to keep out any shells which might enter from the apertures above. Over this 21 ft. deck (so called from the fact of its being 21ft. in height from the inner keelson) the armour-plates, 6in. thick, are built like a cover, sloping inwards at an angle of 30 deg. for about 15ft., when they terminate in a flat armour-deck, on which the guns are placed fore and aft and the loading-houses are built.

About 200ft. from the bows, beneath the main-deck, is the boiler compartment, which extends back to the centre of the ship, where the engine compartments commence, which again extend 52ft. further aft. This portion, in action, would be wholly submerged at its vulnerable parts several feet below the water, and protected from above by the angular cover of 6-in. armour-plates.

There are two screws to this vessel—one under each quarter, and each screw, of course, leading to its own set of engines, placed on each side of the vessel. The ship, like the Warrior, has no external keel; but the inner keel is a box girder, 2ft. high and 2ft. broad, on which is laid a railway for sending the trucks of coals from stern to stern.

The engines are made to be worked at high pressure—60lb. to the inch. Each of the two sets of engines is of about 1000 nominal horse-power, so that working the screws at the rate of 100 revolutions a minute will give an indicated power of 8000 horses. It is very much doubted, however, even by American engineers, whether 60 revolutions can be attained, though all speculations on this point are necessarily very vague, as neither the pitch nor diameter of the screws will be settled till it is seen how the engines themselves will answer. The armour-plates rise to a height of only eight feet above the water-line when the ship is fully immersed to her fighting trim, and here the guns stand on a ridge or platform of metal, about 25 ft. wide in the stern, and from 15ft. to 12ft. wide in the bows. On this armour-deck are placed eight guns of wrought iron, the four in the bows being 15-inch shell-guns, throwing a shell of some 350lb. weight, the four in the stern being 13-inch, and throwing shells of more than 500lb. In addition to these are four angular and almost conical loading-houses (covered, like the rest of the armour-deck, with six-inch plates), one being built between each gun fore and aft. The guns themselves are left entirely exposed, their trunnions being bedded into enormous hemispheres of wrought iron. Each of these hemispheres forms part of a turntable, which is worked on the 21ft. deck beneath. The whole theory on which the vessel would fight, therefore, is this:—On the approach of an enemy the vessel would immerse itself by taking in water till the ridge of her gun deck was almost level with the water's edge. The men told off for loading would occupy the loading-house, and those beneath would, with the aid of the turntable, work round the muzzle of each gun to the entrance of the loading-house, so that each piece might be loaded, worked round again, and fired as quickly as possible. For a, or doors, sufficiently thick, as it is thought, to close the entrance of the loading-houses against ordinary shell protect the men inside when they have once loaded, but the gun itself, with all the men engaged in elevating and firing it, is left entirely exposed. Up to this, the fighting point, then, the whole plan of the boat is—as the invention of an engineer in 1834—full of genius. But, judged by our present standard of ordnance and iron-clad frigates, it must break down the first time it comes to be really tried—that is, in action. Apart from the fact that the guns at three feet from the sea would be "awash," even in the calmest weather, it would be impossible to submerge the ship to her fighting trim in the presence of even a strong breeze. Granting, however, that she could immerse herself in any weather, what becomes of the men and guns left unprotected? The present plan of the Federal Government is to have the guns forged of such a size as will enable them to protect themselves, or, in other words, so solidly made that the enemy may batter at them with impunity. Such a plan might have answered in 1858, when 55-pounders were not introduced and the Armstrong 100-pounder undreamt of. But against the

weapons it will require such a gun as was never yet forged in the world to enable it to take a rap on the muzzle from a 100-pounder without receiving such an indent as will never be shot in or out of it again. What, too, becomes of the men who are to come out of their loading-houses to train and fire the ordnance in the face of riflemen clustering at the ports of an iron-clad? What becomes of the half-inch iron door which closes the loading-houses when struck by a percussion-shell? And, above all, what would become of the whole affair from stem to stern if the Warrior (which, according to the American papers, she ought to blow out of the water in ten minutes) were to steam straight at her when immersed and send her bodily under the waves? There is very little doubt but that in a short time this Stevens's Battery will be afloat; but it will be just as much behind the iron-clad frigates of this age as the old American sailing 84's still on the stocks since 1815 are behind the screw-liners of the present day.

OUR IRON-CLAD FRIGATES.

At least twenty months from the present date must elapse before four of our finest vessels—the Minotaur, the Achilles, the Captain, and the Northumberland—are even afloat; and we learn from the experience of the Warrior that, even using the greatest speed in equipment, it would be at least six months from that time before they could be ready for commission. The new ships will be coated with armour from end to end. At every point they will offer to the fire of an enemy plates of wrought iron not less than 5½ in. thick, backed up with ten inches of teak, with half an inch of iron (the skin of the ship) inside all. The Warrior's plates of 4½ in. weigh 250 tons, but to cover the new larger ships from end to end with plates of 5½ in. will require no less than 2000 tons of metal—an enormous mass of dead weight for a ship to carry in addition to her ponderous engines, stores, guns, shot, and shell. The Warrior, up to the present time, has cost rather over £400,000, and her successors, before they are at sea, will cost nearly £800,000. The new ships are not only to be steam-frigates but steam-rams also, for their bows project beneath the water far in advance of the apparent bows above. The bows, in fact, are formed like the outline of a swan's breast, according to the plan first suggested in the Warrior by Captain Ford. The length of the Warrior is 380 feet, breadth 68, and her tonnage 6170. The new ships are 470 feet long, 59½ broad, with a tonnage of 6815. The increase of breadth in the new ships will, however, be almost entirely under the water line; and by this means, and by giving them a slightly flatter floor, their displacement is nearly 1000 tons greater than the Warrior. This, as the decks are not wider, also increases the slope of the sides inwards from the water's edge, which in the Warrior is at an incline of about 1ft. in 13ft., but in the new ships will be at an incline of 1ft. in 8ft. This not only almost doubles the chance of the shot glancing, but has the still more important advantage of getting the weight more to the centre and diminishing the tendency to roll. The arrangement of the bows in order to fit them for the discharge of their tremendously destructive duties as steam-rams is very peculiar. The "beak" is below the water line, and projects, as we have said, at least 20ft. in advance of what seem to be the bows above. Thus the long overhanging weight which the false cutwater of the Warrior necessitated in order to conceal her beak, which is above water, is entirely done away with, and the bows are water-borne for some 20ft. at least before any weight comes upon them. A space of 30ft. long by 9ft. deep of these seeming bows is left without armour-plates, and only defended from the spar-deck line upwards by teak bulwarks, which lower down like the bulwarks of the little gun-boats. But inside this slight defence comes a semicircular shield of armour, 7ft. high and 5½ in. thick, and spreading completely across the bows of the vessel before the foremast, from side to side. In this there are to be portholes for two immense Armstrong guns. On the main-deck below is another similar shield, reaching up to the iron spar-deck, but without guns, as it is simply intended to cover the crew against the chance of a raking fire. By this arrangement the most complete protection is given to the men both on the spar and main deck, yet without incurring any topheavy weight forward, as the shields are both within the water-borne line of the hull by at least forty feet. The bowsprits of all are to be of iron, fitted with a powerful hinge where they spring from the deck, so that before going into action they can be turned backwards and inwards, that there may be nothing to deaden the force with which the ships will strike when the occasion offers to use them as steam-rams against the enemy. There appears to be very little doubt but that all these vessels will have four iron masts, specially designed to carry four-and-a-half canvas. Wooden masts are not only easily shot away, but are perfectly certain to go by the board on the very first attempt to use the vessels for one of the purposes for which they are specially built—namely, as steam-rams. It is very possible that in this last case the iron mast might do the same too, especially if squarerigged; but they have this immense advantage over timber, that they could not be shot away, and that if they went overboard from other causes they would tear themselves clear, and go down alongside like a deep-sea lead. The sterns of all these new ships will be what is called "pink" sterns—that is, instead of being round and full, like the Warrior and Black Prince, terminating in a fine wedge-shaped point, almost similar to the bows of a fast-going steamer. By adopting this method of construction the number of armour-plates required to cover it is reduced by rather more than a third, while the angle presented will be such that all shots must glance unless fired point blank at the broadside. All the internal subdivisions as to watertight compartments, &c., will be precisely similar to those of the Warrior, and the same effectual protection is given to the magazines by casing them round with the coal and water tanks. The armament of each vessel is to be thirty-six 100-pounder Armstrongs on the main-deck, and on the spar-deck twenty-one guns of the same enormous calibre. The two forward guns through the semicircular shield we have already described are to be 200-pounders, with a pivot-gun of the same size in the stern. They will thus be enabled at a single broadside to throw a ton and a half of shot and shell to a distance of nearly five miles if necessary. In addition to these four vessels now building, the Admiralty are preparing at Chatham to coat the Bulwark and Royal Oak with iron plates on the French plan.

G. F. TRAIN ON THE "SITUATION."—Mr. G. F. Train, of tramway and Sir John Shelley, notoriety, has addressed a letter to a congenial organ—the *New York Herald*—in which he says:—"When steamships owned by Englishmen, loaded by Englishmen, dispatched by Englishmen, manned by Englishmen, continue to leave English ports, under English colours, under the very eyes of the American Legation and the English Foreign Office, full of goods contraband of war, in aid of those in open rebellion against the Federal Government; when Lord Palmerston replies to Mr. Adams, 'Yes, we know it—catch them if you can;' when it becomes generally known that the English Army is secession, the English Navy is secession, the English Church is secession, the English Parliament is secession, the English aristocracy is secession, the English mercantile marine and the English bankers are secession, as you may any day see by reading the secession articles in the English secession daily, weekly, and monthly press—I say, when you see the entire circle of England is secession to the backbone, it is time to declare, from personal observation, that the English pit is sound, and goes for the Union to the last. The boxes breathe hostility, but the galleries are true to the Union cause. War between England and America is absurd, simply because when the war Cabinet declares war the peace people will demand peace. The people of England will not fight the people of America; but the leaders are doing their best to egg them on to bloodshed. The driver of the stage-coach can place all the passengers in the river if he chooses; but the Premier fears that he cannot jump off in time to save his own neck. English politics are in a rotten state—nobody knows anybody; German politics are equally mixed, French politics are muddy, Russian politics are rather hazy, while American politics are divided into the party of traitors and the party of patriots. There are more of the former in Europe than the latter, I regret to say. Secession seems fashionable with many of our merchants and bankers abroad. They think it for their interest to be neutral, as they call it. I consider neutrality the basest kind of treachery—an open enemy is preferable to a neutral friend. The highwayman who demands your money or your life in open road is nobler than the scamp who fires at you from behind a tree and sobs you afterwards."

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND SPEECHES.

THE HON. H. BRAND, M.P., AT LEWES.

At an agricultural dinner at Lewes on Tuesday, the Hon. H. Brand, M.P., spoke on the possibility of war with America, which, he said, depended entirely upon the Cabinet at Washington, and not upon us. He said that "England regarded with the most friendly feeling the people of the United States. They looked at the civil war between the States themselves as a great calamity. They would look upon a war between England and America as a greater calamity. But the greatest calamity of all would be national dishonour. That England could not submit to. Peace was the greatest blessing on the earth, and we ought to make great sacrifices for it; but forbearance had its limits. Peace, although a great blessing, may be bought too dear."

MR. PAGET, M.P., AT NOTTINGHAM.

Last week Mr. Paget was entertained at a banquet at Nottingham. Justice Mellor was expected to be present, but judicial etiquette prevented his attendance. Mr. Paget reviewed the events of the Session at great length. In his remarks on the American question he expressed his opinion that the unfriendly tone of a portion of the press of that country towards England was the work of a foreign element, and did not represent the opinions of the Americans themselves. He spoke emphatically in favour of Hungarian independence, and indulged in some reminiscences of his recent visit to that unfortunate country.

MR. MOWBRAY, M.P., AT DURHAM.

Mr. Mowbray, one of the members for the city of Durham, addressed his constituents on Saturday evening last. Among other topics he adverted at some length to the outrage on the Trent steamer, and in terms of strong indignation resented the insult thus offered to our flag. He said he had no doubt, whatever might be the extent of party differences on matters connected with our internal administration, that the Conservative party would cordially unite with the present or any Government that would take measures to maintain the honour and dignity of the country.

MR. COBBETT, M.P., AT OLDHAM.

Mr. Cobbett addressed his constituents at Oldham on Monday night. The honourable gentleman refrained from expressing a decided opinion upon the questions of international law raised by the seizure of Messrs. Sidel and Mason on board the Trent; but, supposing it was clearly established by our legal authorities that we had suffered an outrage, he should support the Ministry in demanding reparation, and decline to join the so-called "Manchester School" in accepting an American view of the case.

MR. WILLIAMS, M.P., AT LAMBETH.

Mr. Williams addressed his constituents at the Horns Tavern, Kensington, on Monday night. The hon. gentleman's speech was, for the most part, a review of the leading events of the last Session. He alluded in conciliatory language to the difficulty with America, which he earnestly hoped would be peacefully settled. A vote of confidence in the honourable gentleman was passed with great cordiality. A resolution in favour of referring the American question to arbitration was also adopted with much enthusiasm.

MR. HORSMAN, M.P., AT STROUD.

Mr. Horsman addressed his constituents at Stroud on Tuesday. He delivered a long speech, in which, after alluding in the most contemptuous terms to the question of Parliamentary Reform, he gave his views upon the war in America and the affair of the Trent. He endorsed Earl Russell's opinion that the war was being waged by the North for empire and by the South for independence. Mr. Horsman touched very briefly upon the new difficulty with America.

MR. SEYMOUR FITZGERALD AND OTHERS ON THE AMERICAN QUESTION.

An agricultural dinner at Horsham on Wednesday was attended by several members of Parliament. Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald, who presided, made the American question the topic of his speech, and declared that the Conservative party would give Government an "unhesitating and unflinching support." Colonel Birtwell, M.P., and Mr. Cave, M.P., also gave expression to their opinions on the same subject; the latter taking a secessionist view of the war in America.

Mr. Danby Seymour, M.P.; Mr. Miller, M.P. for Leith; Mr. J. I. Briscoe, M.P.; Mr. Cubitt, M.P.; and Mr. Bovill, M.P., have all addressed their constituents, mainly dwelling on the dispute with America; but their remarks do not evolve any particular point deserving of notice. Mr. Seymour urged moderation and the propriety of exhausting every other means of settlement before having recourse to war.

THE REV. NEWMAN HALL ON THE AMERICAN QUESTION.

At Surrey Chapel on Monday night the Rev. Newman Hall delivered an address on the American question to an audience which completely filled the spacious edifice. The rev. gentleman expatiated on the criminality and folly of a war between this country and the United States, and pointed out to the working classes how such a war would be opposed to their interests and to the progress and civilisation of mankind. He urged that the quarrel was a matter for friendly discussion and, if needs be, for arbitration, and that instead of employing the language of passion and perpetrating deeds of violence we should exhibit calmness and forbearance.

MR. WHALLEY AT DUBLIN.

There was a meeting in the round room of the Rotundo, Dublin, on Monday, on the Maynooth question. Mr. Whalley, M.P., was present, and in the midst of continued rounds of Kentish fire and the waving of orange handkerchiefs and other emblems, delivered a speech in which he indulged in the usual denunciations of Popery, the Maynooth grant, &c., and concluded by declaring that Orangism was coeval with the accession of our Majesty's family to the crown, that the one was as sacred an institution as the other, and that he trusted the Queen would never forget that without the Orange organisation and principles the Throne could never be safe. If so, it is pity it has no more rational foundation and no more sensible supporters than Mr. Whalley and his followers.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

BIRKENHEAD.—The nomination of candidates for this newly-created borough took place on Monday, when the show of hands was declared to be in favour of Mr. Brassey, the Liberal candidate. A poll having been demanded on behalf of Mr. Laird, the voting took place on Tuesday, and resulted in the election of the latter gentleman by a majority of 323, the numbers at the close of the poll being—Laird, 1661; Brassey, 1338.

FINSBURY.—There are now three candidates in the field for Finsbury—namely, Mr. Mills, Mr. Cox, and a Mr. Bury Hutchinson. The last-named gentleman professes somewhat extreme views, and as he has started rather late, there does not seem anything likely to be gained by his candidature beyond a division in the Liberal ranks. In view of this, the Conservatives are making an effort to start a man, but hitherto without success. The returning officer has fixed this day (Saturday) for the nomination, and Monday for the polling.

NOTTINGHAM.—Sir Robert Clifton and the Earl of Lincoln have both issued addresses to the electors of Nottingham. Sir Robert is prosecuting an active canvass, while his noble opponent is confined to the house by illness. His recovery, however, is progressing, and he is expected shortly to appear personally in the borough. The names of Mr. Cheetham, Capt. Denman, and Mr. John Marshman, have also been mentioned among Liberals; but it is not expected that either will stand. The Conservatives seem to be slightly at a loss. Mr. Bromley has not declared himself, and the name of Mr. Tidway, lace-manufacturer, Carrington, is now talked of.

SERIOUS CHARGE OF FORGERY.—A serious charge of forgery was preferred against Mr. Henry Wells Young, a solicitor, at the Mansion House, on Wednesday. The charge was that the prisoner had forged two powers of attorney for the transfer of sums amounting to between £5000 and £6000 which were deposited in the Bank of England. Mr. Freshfield attended to prosecute on behalf of the Bank, and, evidence with reference to one case having been gone into, the prisoner was remanded.

THE YANKEES AND CANADA.—Our beloved Canada cousins are kicking up a precious shindy (in the journals) on account of the capture of Sidel and Mason. They will not do much harm. I do not think the Canadians would like a war to come off between this country and England this year. They are too prosperous, and the war would be too near their own hearthstones; for there is no Canadian so stupid as not to perceive that a war in 1861 would not be the war of 1812 over again. If it cost a million of lives Canada would be taken. We should be forced to it. The American people are not such idiots as to have a foreign population north of us this side of the North Pole, if we have a chance to get rid of the inconvenience.—*New York Correspondent of the Standard.*

AMERICAN CORN.—Thirty years ago bread-stuffs were sent from Buffalo westward to supply settlers in the wilderness. That wilderness has now become the granary of the world. The first shipment of wheat at Chicago for the eastward was made in 1838, and consisted of only 2000 bushels during the year. In 1855 upwards of 20,000,000 bushels were shipped. During the month of October last 12,452,767 bushels of grain and flour were received at Buffalo; and during the thirteen months ending the 31st of October last the receipts at Buffalo were 51,969,142 bushels of grain and flour.

MONTENEGRINS IN ALBANIA.

MONTENEGRO, with its population of about 120,000, is divided into eight districts, each of which is again divided into several *pleminas*, or races. Each village, standing at the foot of the rock or scattered upon the hillside, according to the taste of its original founders, has for its chief the descendant of the family who first established its hut upon the spot. According to ancient patriarchal government, the father of the family is absolute master in the house, and is treated with profound respect, while his orders are obeyed with complete submission. The construction of the dwellings is of a primitive style faithfully adhered to here, but forgotten and wellnigh lost in the west of Europe. They consist simply of four walls, about seven feet high, at no particular angle, and of a thatched roof. In the centre of the hut a hole dug in the ground serves for the fireplace, while the door, and open, unglazed window, seem to render a chimney a mere matter of personal convenience, and by no means necessary to the comfort of the inhabitants. A large chest, three or four stools, and a few earthen pitchers, comprise the furniture; and in this confined cabin there will often be found more than one family, who sleep in half-dressed groups, and meet at meal-times round a mat, on which is served the provisions of the day—cakes of maize baked in the embers, boiled potatoes, and on five days a quarter of roast mutton. The ceremony of betrothal is as primitive as the other habits of the people, and saves a world of trouble. When the father of a son old enough to think of matrimony desires an alliance with a neighbour, he goes out gun on shoulder and repairs to the cabin of the intended bride's parents. Should the head of the house be away from home, he calmly takes his pipe from his belt and sits down to smoke till his return. The business is soon concluded. "My son is a man now as thy daughter is a woman. Wilt thou accept a glass of wine?" If the response is in the affirmative, the affair is considered as settled. As amongst the nomade Bohemians of the Danubian Principalities and of Turkey, the Montenegrin woman seems to be consigned to a state of domestic slavery. Condemned even from childhood to rough work and an humble position, she submits during her frequently long life to that unremitting toil to which the mountaineer disdains to apply himself. She performs most of the fieldwork, digs, sows, and reaps, while her husband parades his arms, takes a roving licence on warlike expeditions, and believes that he has no other duties to fulfil towards the community. The Montenegrins have but one mode of fighting. When their company is numerous they lie in ambush in the ravines, a number of them extending in front to draw the enemy upon the main body of the army. If this ruse succeeds the whole troop surround the foe and attack at once. Their warfare, however, is more frequently that of guerilla troops, and, as they are generally good marksmen, the skirmishing parties into which they divide their force commit deadly mischief from behind the rocks and trees where they are concealed.

M. Broniowski, in his book on Montenegro, says that away from their own mountains the Montenegrins are useless as regular troops, since they lose by their want of discipline all the advantage gained by their courage. In a battle, however, their movements can only be followed by the movements of their standards; and, after having discovered the weak points of the opposing army, they announce it to each other by piercing shouts, and at once charge madly on, and return yelling and bringing with them the heads which they have cut off in the attack.

The warlike character of the people may be suggested by a story told by M. Marnier, who says that an old mountaineer, when discontented with the conduct of his son, tells him that he will be punished for his disobedience by dying in his bed. These are the people who have been able to keep in check the army of Omer Pacha, against which they oppose not only their national bravery, but the almost inaccessible defiles of the country, one of which (the Defile of Kutchko) is represented in our Engraving.

ENGLAND'S ULTIMATUM.—A contemporary says:—"We believe it will be found that the terms demanded from the American by the British Government, in reference to the outrage committed on the British flag by the officers of the *San Jacinto*, are—first, an unconditional apology; and, secondly, the immediate release of Messrs. Sidel and Mason, the Confederate Commissioners delegated to the Governments of Great Britain and France. Lord Lyons has been instructed to give the Cabinet of Washington five days to consider its answer. If none be given within that time, or if it be unsatisfactory or evasive, Lord Lyons will immediately afterwards quit Washington and embark for Europe. In that case he may be expected to arrive in London about the 2nd or 3rd of January."

THE WEATHER AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—The present mildness of the season is testified to by the state of the public health. The mortality has dropped down about 120 in the course of a single week, the returns last week being 1300, and for the week previous 1420. The corrected average for the last ten years would give 1395. It is curious to observe that in the City the rate of mortality had rather been on the increase: it rose last week from 52 to 62. The birth rate over the metropolis is also below the average, but the decrease is only nominal—1656 children against an average of 1660.

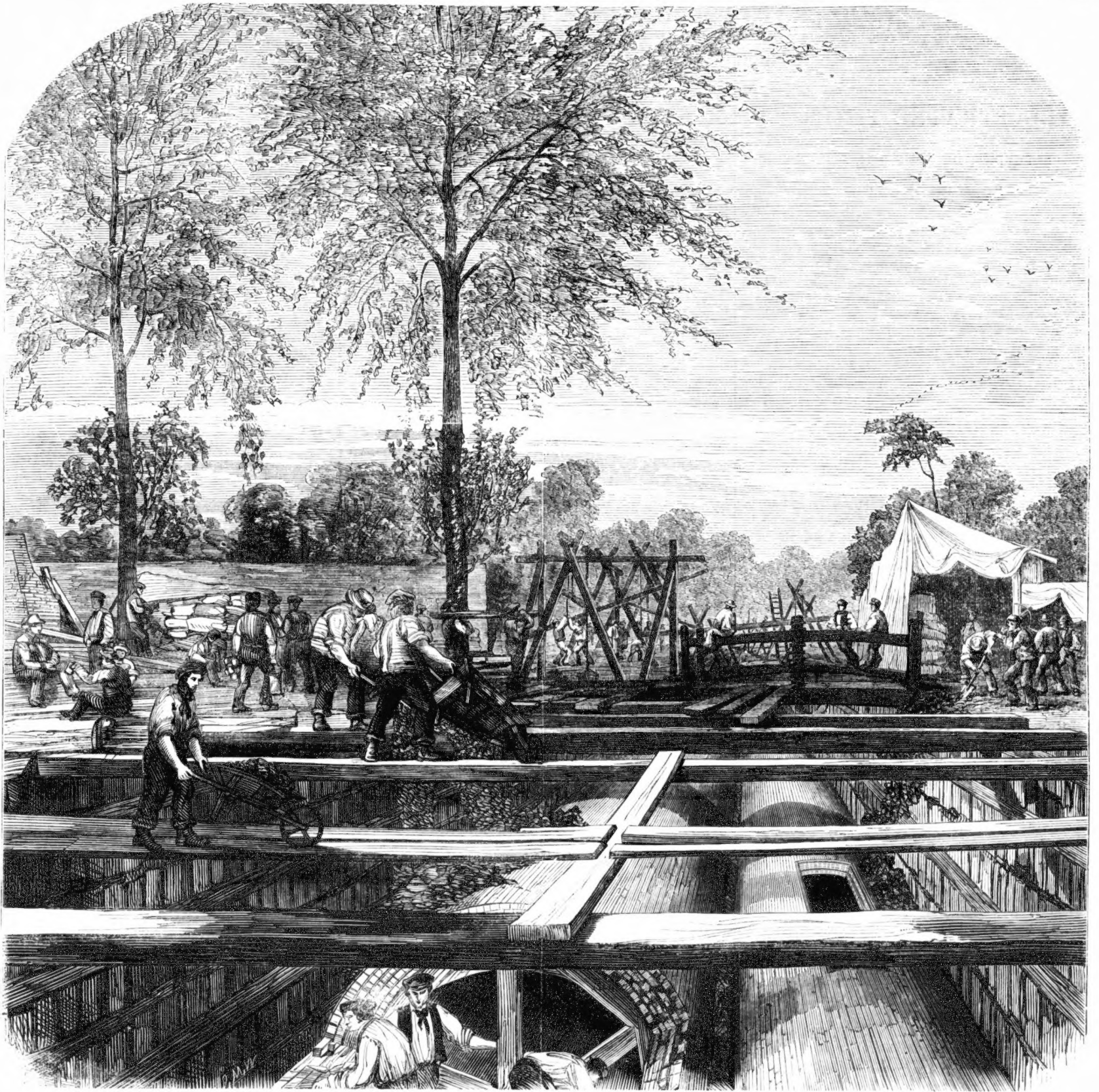
AMERICAN ADVANTAGES IN CASE OF WAR.—Should a war break out, America will gain the full advantage of her refusal to recognise the Treaty of Paris; but we much doubt whether she will find that advantage a great one. First, she will have all the services of an active fleet of privateers, on the need of which for any contest with a great maritime Power she grounded her refusal to assent to the Treaty of Paris. Again, she will, if she chooses, be able to search the vessels of neutrals for English goods, and to confiscate them wherever found, though we shall not be able to search the vessels of any Power which has assented to that treaty—French, or Russian, or Sardinian, for example—for American goods. Thus, on both sides, the advantage will remain with America. Of course, as regards privateering, we are in no way fettered by the Treaty of Paris, which only binds us as towards nations consenting thereto.

LIFE-BOAT STATIONS.—At this period of the wintry season, when storms and shipwrecks are of daily occurrence, important service will be rendered to sailors and seagoing passengers by publishing a list of the life-boat stations on the coasts of the British Isles belonging to the National Life-boat Institution. They are as follows:—*England*.—Northumberland: Berwick-on-Tweed, North Sunderland, Boulmer, Alnham, Hauxley, Newbiggin, Cultercross, Tynemouth. *Durham*.—Whitburn, Seaton Carew. *Yorkshire*.—Middleborough, Redcar, Saltburn, Whitby, Scarborough, Bridlington, Hornsea. *Norfolk*.—Cromer, Blakeney, Mundesley, Bacton, Felling, Winterton, Caistor, Yarmouth (2). *Suffolk*.—Lowestoft, Pakefield, Southwold, Thorpeness (2), Aldborough. *Kent*.—Kingsgate, Margate, Walmer, Dover, Dungeness. *Sussex*.—Camber, Rye, Hastings, Eastbourne, Newhaven, Brighton, Selsey. *Isle of Wight*.—Grange, Brooke, Guernsey: St. Samsons. *Dorset*.—Lyme Regis. *South Devon*.—Exmouth, Plymouth. *Teignmouth*.—Cornwall: Fowey, Lizard, Penzance, Sennen Cove, St. Ives, Newquay, Padstow, Bude Haven. *North Devon*.—Appledore (2), Braunton. *Wales*.—Glamorganshire: Penarth, Porthcawl. Carmarthenshire: Llanelly, Carmarthen Bay. Pembrokeshire: Tenby, Fishguard. Cardiganshire: Cardigan, Aberystwyth. Merionethshire: Aberdovey, Barmouth. Carnarvonshire: Portmadoc. Anglesea: Llanddwyn, Rhosolyn, Holyhead, Cemalyn, Moelfre, Penmon. Carnarvonshire: Orme's Head. Flintshire: Rhyl (Tubular). Lancashire: Southport, Lytham, Fleetwood. Cumberland: Silloth. Isle of Man: Castletown. *Scotland*.—Kirkcudbright: Kirkcudbright. Ayrshire: Ayr, Irvine. Argyllshire: Cantire. Caithnessshire: Thurso. Banffshire: Banff, Banff, Elginshire: Lossiemouth. Aberdeenshire: Fraserburgh. Fifehire: St. Andrews. Haddingtonshire: North Berwick. *Ireland*.—County Antrim: Portrush. Down: Groomsport, Tyrrell, Newcastle. Louth: Dundalk, Drogheda. Dublin: Skerries. Wicklow: Wicklow, Arklow. Wexford: Cahore, Wexford, Rosslare Fort, Carnsore. Waterford: Tramore, Dungarvon, Ardmore. Cork: Youghal, Ballycotton. Mayo: Westport. *These life-boats will shortly be sent to their stations.

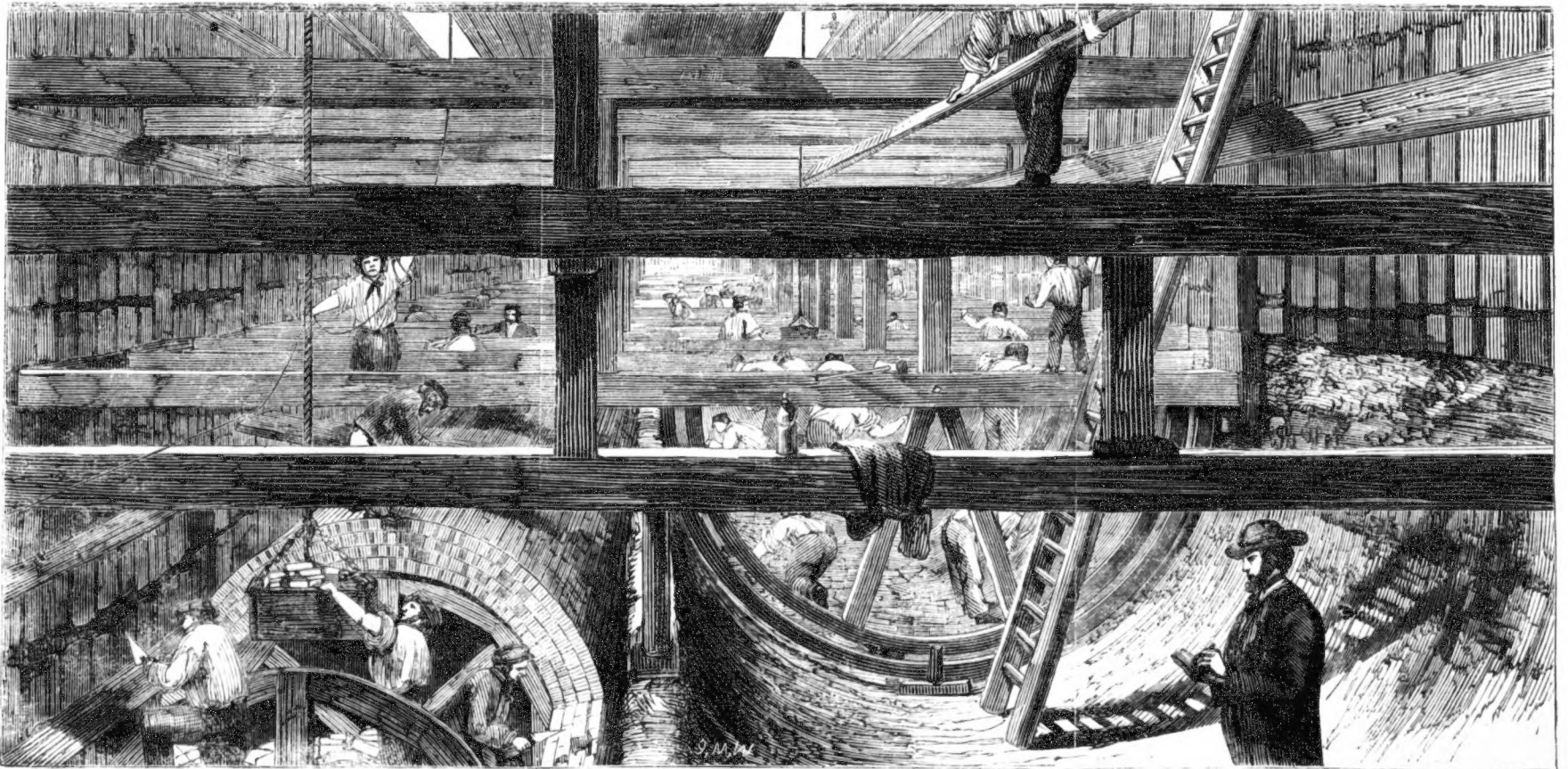
A SCARLET LETTER.—A correspondent of an American paper calls attention to the conspicuous part the letter B is playing in the national troubles. Big Bethel, Bull Run, Ball's Bluff, the two Beaumonts, Brunswick, Bolivar, Belmont, seem to justify the idea of its frequency in topography. While he alleges "that the Blair family on the Union side are as influential in the making and unmaking of Generals, and the management of the war generally, as the Secretary-at-War Benjamin and General Beauregard and Bragg on the side of the enemy," the journal in question adds:—"Had our curious correspondent pushed his case further by reminding us how all our troubles began with these abominable B's, Buchanan and Breckenridge, it would have been more complete." The American editor has forgotten a couple of other parties who have damaged the Federal cause materially—Generals Bunkum and Bounce.



MONTENEGVIN POST IN THE DEVIL'S GORGE OF RUTSCHKA, NEAR LISSA.



METROPOLITAN MAIN DRAINAGE WORKS—A SKETCH AT NEW CROSS.



VIEW SHOWING THE PROGRESS OF THE SEWERS AT NEW CROSS.—SEE PAGE 381.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1861.

"ORE ROTUNDO."

GREAT playwrights—Shakspeare especially—when the interest of a piece appears in danger of becoming overwrought, judiciously interpolate the dramatic business with broad, farcical comedy. Hereby they supply a natural requirement, so universally understood that our modern Judges in the midst of the gravest of causes will countenance and relish, if not initiate, a merry jest, to their great advantage in refreshing their minds towards the comprehension of the matter in hand.

For many days past the great intellect of England has been strained to the understanding of the possible difference between herself and the American Powers. When the tension has arrived at its utmost, there comes, by way of diversion, an utterly unforeseen view of the case from the "Round-room, Rotundo, Dublin." The very name of the locality suggests giddy bewilderment: and bewildering enough is the eloquence speaking forth from that platform. The meeting is convened by a member of the British House of Commons calling himself "The O'Donoghue." Its purpose is advertised to be "to consider Irish national affairs at the present momentous crisis." It is, therefore, curious to observe that, throughout the entire meeting, Irish national affairs, scarcely receive so much as a passing observation. The reader of the report of the meeting is left completely in the dark even as to what Irish national affairs may be. There are, of course, the usual dark intimations of "oppression" by England; and there is a hint that Irish mothers will, from and after some event, "no longer bring forth slaves." But in what English oppression consists one is left utterly in the dark to discover. We strive to analyse the chairman's speech, to subdivide it into intelligible propositions, and the only result obtainable is the following:—

1. "He was perfectly certain that the majority of Irishmen will object to contribute either money or men to enable England to wage war with the Northern States."
2. "He was 'almost perfectly' sure that that objection was in no way the result of hostility to those gallant Confederates who were so valiantly resisting the unjust and aggressive policy of the North."

3. They (his hearers) wanted the Union to be restored because "they wanted America to be, as she had been heretofore, the friend of oppressed nationalities—the home of liberty and the refuge of the patriot."

4. "At the same time," he added, "that if circumstances should require it they would not be opposed to the establishment of a Northern Confederacy and a Southern Confederacy."

We have quoted all these passages verbatim. It now remains to be seen to what conclusions they arrive. And these conclusions, fairly translated, are as follow:—

1. That an objection is entertained to a difference with the Northern States, who insist on the Union.

2. That the policy of the North is unjust and aggressive, and that of the Confederates, who insist on secession, "gallant and valiant."

3. That the meeting is in favour of the Union for which the Northern States are fighting. That the reason for this predilection is that America is the refuge of the patriot, although the only chance of England warring with the North, as anticipated in declaration No. 1, is the seizure and imprisonment of unfortunate members of the class termed "gallant and valiant" in No. 2, for their opposition to the Union, of which the meeting is in favour, as expressed in No. 3, and the policy of the supporters of which is unjust and aggressive.

4. That should circumstances require it they (the meeting) would not be opposed to secession.

Can any sane man imagine another of average powers of intelligence being morally influenced by such seesaw, weather-cock rubbish as this? But, after all, the test of a meeting is to be found in its resolutions. The first of these at the Rotundo was to the effect that it would be unnatural to suppose in a certain event "that Ireland could remain an indifferent spectator of a struggle between England and America." Think of the absurdity of a resolution to declare a supposition unnatural! How can an unnatural supposition exist, or exercise any influence whatever upon any appreciable number of minds?

The grand climax of absurdity was reached by a Mr. T. D. Sullivan. He adjured his hearers, "by the pale head which the executioner held up before the multitude in Thomas-street ('Hurroo!' and demonstrations of rampant exultation), by that unadorned grave in Booterstown, and by the honoured dust of Terence Bellew M'Manus," to "act in the future with toleration towards one another—with harmony and good feeling." Truly, a lame and impotent conclusion! Are Irishmen, then, so unused to act with toleration, harmony, and good feeling, that they require to be adjured into the necessary state of mind by the head of a man not buried at all,

by the grave of somebody in Booterstown who has not a tombstone, and by the remains of some one else who has? What does it all mean?

Perhaps the meaning is to be found in the subsequent appointment of a committee to consider the advisability of an organisation in the present state of affairs. We should humbly beg to recommend the cultivation of health and activity in the cerebral organisation as devoutly to be prayed for by The O'Donoghue and his admirers.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HIS MAJESTY has ordered some specimens of sewed muslin embroidery from several houses in Ayr. The work will be partly executed, by Her Majesty's direction, by females in Ireland.

THE QUEEN has appointed Mr. James Syme, professor of clinical surgery in the University of Edinburgh, to be surgeon in ordinary to Her Majesty in Scotland.

PARLIAMENT has been further prorogued to the 7th of January.

RAJAH BROOK, whose departure from Borneo we noticed last week, has arrived in this country in the enjoyment, it is said, of excellent health.

MR. SERJEANT HAYES has been appointed Recorder of Leicester, vacant by the elevation to the Bench of John Meller, Esq., Q.C., M.P.

LORD CANNING has decided the question of the seat of Government of the North-west Provinces, Allahabad or Agra, in favour of Allahabad, and has sanctioned the erection of buildings for Government offices.

LORD MACDONALD is lying dangerously ill at Settrington Hall, near Malton, his Lordship's occasional residence.

It is proposed in official quarters to collect an army of 50,000 men at Aldershot during the Exhibition of 1862. For what purpose?

It is rumoured that Her Majesty's Theatre will positively open next season under the direction of M. Bagier, of Madrid.

THE LESSEESHIP of St. James's Theatre has passed out of the hands of Mr. Alfred Wigan into those of Mr. Sussex Millbank.

DEERFOOT has won another footrace. Cambridge was the scene of the exploit this time, and among the spectators was the Prince of Wales, who shook hands with the redskin, presented him with a purse containing two notes, and also gave gratuities to the unsuccessful competitors.

A LADY ADVERTISES, in a Glasgow paper, that she wants a gentleman "for breakfast and tea."

COMMANDER WILLIAMS, R.N., the Admiralty agent of the Trent, it is said, has received a letter from the Government approving of his conduct.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN is said to have explained to the French officials at Washington that the boarding of the Jules et Marie by the San Jacinto was the result of "some mistake."

THE EARL OF DUDLEY is expected to preside at the annual general meeting of the Vocal Association during the present month. The society commences its rehearsals for the season 1862, under the direction of M. Benedict, immediately after the general meeting is held.

THE DUCHESS DE BERRI is on the point of purchasing property in Styria for the Duchesse de Parma, who intends to take up her residence there.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT MR. ALDERMAN COPELAND, M.P., being now the senior Alderman, will be appointed President of Bridewell and Bethlehem Hospitals, which appointment was held by the late Sir Peter Laurie since 1833. The vacancy in the Court of Aldermen caused by the death of Sir Peter is expected to be filled up by the election of Mr. Robert Besley, typefounder.

A MEETING OF HOP-PLANTERS was held at Worcester on the 7th inst. to promote the repeal of the hop duties. Resolutions pledging the meeting to use exertions to attain that object were passed.

THE PRINCE OF CAPEU, uncle of Francis II., has been for some days at Compiegne, with some members of his family. He is residing, quite incog., at the Hôtel de la Cloche.

LORD ROBERT MONTAGU has a work in the press entitled "A Mirror of America; or, Political Analogies across the Atlantic."

MADAME GOLDENHEIM cleared upwards of £2000 by her three concerts in Edinburgh.

INTELLIGENCE has been received of the wreck of the Onda, Baltic steamer, on the island of Anhalt, in the Cattegat—crew saved.

THE ORDERS GIVEN FOR COLOURED GLASS WINDOWS for the churches now being built in Paris amount to 600,000.

MR. WAKLEY, Coroner for West Middlesex, is said to be rapidly recovering from his long and dangerous indisposition. He left England about two months back for the Island of Madeira.

THE PRESIDENT of the little Republic of Andorra has just died, and his successor has already been elected.

SIR JOHN DEAN PAUL, it is said, has contracted a matrimonial connection. The lady, who is his third wife, is stated to be a daughter of the late Thos. Bugden, Esq., of Holmesdale House, Surrey, and Beaulieu, Jersey.

GENERAL SCOTT will not remain much longer in Paris. He will proceed to Rome and winter there.

THE 100-FOUNDER ARMSTRONG GUNS, the issue of which had been temporarily suspended during some experiments, will now be again delivered for service.

THE BIRD SHOW which has just been held in Southampton is the largest ever known in England. Every British bird, except the cuckoo, was exhibited.

THE EXHIBITION AT FLORENCE is about to be closed. The Prince Eugene de Carignan has arrived in that city for the purpose of presiding over the final ceremonies.

THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL WESTERN YACHT CLUB, at Plymouth, gave an entertainment on Thursday last to Commander Williams, mail agent of the Trent, in honour of his gallant conduct in the San Jacinto affair, Commander Williams being a member of the club.

MAJOR CARNEGIE has been dismissed from civil employment in Oude for dishonourable dealings in Government paper.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA arrived at Venice on the night of the 1st inst. The next day his Majesty received the high clergy and the civil and military authorities, and in the evening the municipality had the square of Saint Mark brilliantly illuminated. His Majesty, it was believed, would pass a week at Venice.

It is confidently asserted that the Prussian Government will, at the opening of the ensuing Session, submit to the Chambers a project for a large loan for the purpose of increasing the Navy.

A CATHOLIC PRIEST OF POSEN (M. Bubner of Xions), who in April last announced from the altar a funeral service for the persons assassinated in 1848, has just been tried for the offence, and sentenced to a fine of 200 thalers and two months' imprisonment.

AT Huddersfield a mason's labourer has been, it is feared, fatally assaulted by some labourers who are on strike. After the assault had been committed it was found that the wrong man had been injured.

A CATTLE-DEALER named Hewson has been cast in £250 damages for saying aloud to a third party in Peterborough market that a Mr. Gilchrist, a farmer, was "the greatest thief in all England."

SIR JOHN ARNOTT, M.P., Mayor of Cork, has invested £40,000 in the establishment of a "monster bakery" and milling concern, with the view of selling to the poor at first cost during the apprehended season of scarcity and distress.

THE PARIS DEBATS publishes a long article on the Dappes Valley dispute with Switzerland, in which it asserts that the valley belongs to France, and, if Switzerland does not give up, France will seize it and negotiate afterwards.

A DESPERATE AFFRAY with poachers recently occurred on the estate of the Duke of Newcastle, near Bothemall. Two watchers (father and son) were so severely injured that their recovery is doubtful.

ON SATURDAY MORNING WEEK THE EAGLE BRIG, coal-laden from Newcastle, was wrecked while attempting to enter Aberdeen harbour and two of the crew drowned.

MARY ANN ROWLEY, a married woman, aged twenty, was last week burned to death near Nottingham in consequence of her "extensive crinoline petticoat" being ignited by coming in contact with the fire.

A DAUNING FELLOW the other Sunday evening went into a chapel at Chester and thought to puzzle the preacher by bawling out, "Can you tell me whether Adam was a white man or a black one?" He was committed to gaol for fourteen days to think the matter out for himself.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE PEACE SOCIETY have published a letter to the various Christian denominations urging upon them the desirableness and the duty of especially addressing kindred bodies on the other side of the Atlantic with reference to the present conjuncture, so as, if possible, to throw the oil of Christian love on the rising waters of strife. The society has also forwarded a letter to Lord Palmerston urging him to have recourse to arbitration rather than war in settling our disputes with the Federals.

LIEUTENANT SINGER, of the 75th Regiment, has been killed by an armed mob in Nowgong, Assam, while trying to collect the taxes.

DOUSIOS, the young man who lately made an attempt on the life of the Queen of Greece, has been condemned to death.

THIS MONTH is particularly favoured in the lunar way, boasting of no fewer than two new moons, a new moon having come in on the 2nd and another new moon coming in on the 31st—certainly a very good wind-up to this annus mirabilis.

COUNT LAMBERT, whose dispute with General Gerstenzweig about the release of some Polish prisoners at Warsaw caused the General to commit suicide, had arrived at Madeira, according to the last advices from that island.

ALL THE SHANTIES ERECTED FOR THE ACCOMMODATION OF THE WORKMEN AT THE NATLEY HOSPITAL on Southampton Water have been ordered to be removed, to make room for the encampment of 400 troops. There are not above 300 men now at work at the hospital.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH NOTICES given from several metropolitan pulpits on Sunday, meetings were held in a great many churches on Thursday, the day on which the message of the British Government was expected to reach Washington, for the purpose of praying for the preservation of peace.

LETTERS FROM RIO DE JANEIRO state that General Webb, the Federal American Minister to Brazil, had sent in a demand to the Brazilian Government that the Governor of Maranhão should be superseded for having allowed coffee to be supplied to the privateer Sumter.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT FAIRFAX COURT HOUSE, in Virginia, has been destroyed by the Confederate and Federal troops. The church was one of the oldest in the United States. It was built by Lord Fairfax, and the pulpit and altar were constructed in England. It was in this church and at this altar that George Washington was married.

THE PERSONALITY OF THE LATE BARON HERBERT has been sworn under £100,000. Lord Herbert died possessed of very considerable property, both landed and personal; and that over which his Lordship had the power of disposition he has bequeathed to Lady Herbert, his relict, absolutely, whom he has appointed residuary legatee.

THE FALL SEASON has been an unusually mild one in the United States. Apples were in full bloom in the first week in October, the laburnum was in flower, and there were second crops of vegetables. In Connecticut the crops were more abundant than they have been known for years. Potatoes were selling at half the usual price.

It is stated, on what appears to be good authority, says a Federal journal, that the rebels have at Manassas several thoroughly armed and equipped companies of negroes, and that throughout the South they are pressed into the service of the rebellion in great numbers.

OUR STEAM TONNAGE had, two years ago, reached 500,000 tons, which is reckoned as equivalent in working power to 2,000,000 tons of sailing-ship tonnage, while the steam tonnage of the United States applicable to open sea service was at that time about 80,000 tons only, equivalent in working power to 320,000 tons of sailing-vessel tonnage.

TOM SAYERS having intimated that he was about to open his circus in Oxford, the University authorities prohibited the exhibition, and have acted on their notification so far as to station proctors, &c., at the entrance, who prevent all students from attending the performance.

THE THEATRE FRANÇAIS has received from the Minister of State a present which will soon be placed in the new green-room of the theatre. It is a full-length portrait of Mlle. Rachel, painted by Gérôme, and which has already been seen in several exhibitions.

THE WINTER HAS SET IN AT ST. PETERSBURG with extreme severity. The Neva is already passable on foot, and will soon bear sledges. A merchant, M. Solodovnikov, has applied steam power to drawing sledges, and purposes establishing regular trains for passengers and goods between St. Petersburg and Cronstadt.

MR. DONALD M'KAY, shipbuilder, of Baltimore, U.S., has addressed a letter to the London newspapers in which he details the naval resources of the Federal States, and asserts that they have means of rapidly building, equipping, and manning, a naval force "equal if not superior to those of all the rest of the world."

THE JEWS OF MUNICH have signed an address to the King of Bavaria expressing their gratitude at having been relieved from the restrictive measures to which they had long been subjected, and under which they were treated as an exceptional category of citizens. Similar addresses have been sent to the King by Jewish communities abroad.

IN THESE DAYS OF INFLAMMABLE LADIES we shall perhaps render good service by giving publicity to the discovery recently made by a French chemist that muslin, lace, and all descriptions of light stuffs, may be rendered fireproof by steeping them in starch mixed with half its weight of carbonate of lime, or, as it is commonly called, Spanish chalk.

THE REV. ROBERT GREGORY, Incumbent of St. Mary's, Lambeth, makes an earnest appeal through the newspapers on behalf of the poor of his parish, which we hope will be favourably responded to.

DR. M'HALE has addressed another letter to Lord Palmerston on the subject of the threatened famine in Ireland, urging upon Government the necessity of its immediately taking steps to provide relief for the distressed. The Rev. Doctor modestly suggests that one million at least might be spared for the purpose.

THE GROSS RECEIPTS OF THE THEATRES and other places of public amusement in Paris during the month of November amounted to 1,539,647*fr.*, being 31,975*fr.* more than in the corresponding month last year.

SEVERAL NEW BANKS OF CORAL have been discovered off the coast of Oran (Algeria), promising a rich harvest for the coral-fishers.

THE AMERICANS have issued instructions that no foreigner is to be allowed to leave the Federal States unless provided with a passport from Mr. Seward; and the rule has been made to apply to British subjects going to our provinces in North America, passports for that purpose having been refused on application.

IT IS STATED IN PARIS that intelligence has been received there of the intention of the Federal Government to fit out a number of privateers in California for the purpose of attacking our Australian traders before information of a war could reach those distant regions from England. This is a matter that requires looking to immediately.

THE REAPPOINTMENT OF THE COMMISSION which formerly sat upon the subject of the embankment of the Thames has been officially notified. The special point to which the attention of the commission will now be directed is the embankment of the southern side of the river, and whether the condition of the southern districts is likely to be injuriously affected by the works resolved upon for the northern bank.

A MONUMENT is about to be erected to the memory of Sir Humphry Davy at Penzance. It will consist of a granite column and base, surmounted with a statue of the great chemist holding a safety-lamp in his hand.

A BOURNON CONSPIRACY to inaugurate a system of brigandage in Sicily is said to have been discovered in Palermo, and the leaders arrested, among whom were a great many priests. The prompt action of the Government in the affair is much applauded throughout the island. It is again reported that Borges has been captured and shot.

WARLIKE PREPARATIONS.—The Government are taking active measures to be in readiness for decided action in the event of the answer from the Washington Cabinet being unfavourable. Troops and munitions of war are being dispatched in all haste, and to a considerable extent, to Canada. The steam-transport Melbourne has already sailed with a heavy freight of war stores, together with a body of troops; and the Persia, Australasian, Parana, and other vessels are to follow immediately, each carrying about 1100 men, 5000 stand of arms, and 300 tons of stores. The 1st battalion of the Grenadier Guards have been inspected at the Tower, their baggage is packed, and the men are ready to move at a moment's notice. Draughts from the camps at Aldershot and Shoreham have also got notice to prepare for embarkation; and parties of drill corporals and sergeants have been told off for passage to Canada and the North American provinces in order to be employed in drilling the militia there. The fitting-up of ships of war, and the issuing of Armstrong guns, are also going on with great activity; the dockyards are all engaging extra hands, and the various sets of men are working extra time; and, altogether, every effort is being made to get matters in readiness for whatever contingency may occur.

MR. COBDEN ON THE TRENT AFFAIR.—A letter from Mr. Cobden was read at the dinner in Rochdale to Mr. Bright last week, in which, after discussing the state of our relations with America, the hon. gentleman says:—"It had been assumed in certain quarters that when our legal authorities have given their opinion on the point at issue the question was settled, and that we have only to proceed to enforce the award. But the matter in dispute must be decided, not by British but international law; and if the President's Government should assume the responsibility of the act of their naval officer, they will claim for the reasoning and precedents of their legal advisers the same consideration which they are bound to give to the arguments of the British law officers. Whatever the issue of the legal controversy, however, we cannot hope to bring the question to a more satisfactory issue by an appeal to arms." Mr. Cobden then argues for a complete revision of the International Maritime Code, especially as regards merchant vessels in time of war, and concludes by expressing his belief that any interference by England or France in the affairs of America, whether by breaking the blockade or prematurely acknowledging the independence of the South, will only aggravate and protract the quarrel.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

In 1811 England and France were at war and America was neutral. The practice of England then was for British cruisers to stop all American merchant ships and search them for British seamen, and if such were found they were transferred immediately and at once to the British ships. The President of the United States, Mr. Madison, complained bitterly of this practice; and, ultimately, this and other grievances and misunderstandings, as we all know, led to a war between the two countries. Now, on accidentally taking down a volume of the *Quarterly Review* (vol. vii., 1812), I find in an article upon this subject this reason given for this right of search:—"Every Sovereign has a right to the services of his subjects; but if, on the breaking out of a war, these subjects avoid his service by running on board neutral vessels, which, perhaps, may be employed in aiding the enemy, the right would be a dead letter if the power were denied of visiting neutral vessels and taking them out wherever found." This is a curious deliverance, to say the least of it; for, upon the principle here laid down, England claims the right to stop all neutral ships and remove therefrom all British subjects. And I find in the same article cases which seem to prove that this was really so. In 1687, for example, when complaint was made by Holland that a Dutch ship had been stopped and English seamen taken out of her, Sir Richard Raines, the Admiralty Judge, defended the stoppage and search upon the same grounds. It was not as British seamen but as British subjects, to whose services the Crown had a right, that the men were seized. Of course, in this column, I am not going to draw any conclusion from the above facts. All I do here is to note them as curiosities; probably the reviewer and Judge were both wrong, and possibly the law and practice may have changed since 1811. Of all this, not being a lawyer, I know nothing.

But here is a fact gleaned from my reading which I think is, in our present critical circumstances, well worth consideration. In the life of Madison, the President of the United States—in Knight's "English Cyclopædia," just completed—I find the following sentence:—"It is known that, after many fruitless efforts to induce Great Britain and France to respect neutral rights, war was declared against Great Britain, and that it continued with various success until 1815. It is said that Mr. Madison, being aware how unprepared the United States were for war, and anxious to preserve peace as long as it could be preserved consistently with the neutral rights of America, wished to postpone the declaration of war, but was urged into it by Mr. Clay and some ardent spirits whose patience was exhausted. If this be so, had his counsels prevailed the war would have been prevented, for he has often told the writer of this notice that the Administration had afterwards indubitable evidence that the British Ministry had decided on revoking the offensive order in council, in which case the principal cause of war would have been removed." So, then, this war was the child of impatience in America and a want of magnanimity in England; for, if the Government of the United States had waited, or if England had been sufficiently magnanimous to publish its intention, not a shot would have been fired. During this war some score actions were fought at sea, several pitched battles on land, Buffalo Town was taken and burnt, the public buildings at Washington were destroyed, thousands of lives were lost, millions of money were spent; and all might have been prevented by the exercise of a little more magnanimity on one side and patience on the other. Whether a justifiable *casus belli* can be made out against the Americans from the affair of the Trent I know not; but surely, if history teacheth by example, as it is said to do, we ought not to be in a hurry to fight. And be it remembered as a further lesson that the United States gained nothing by that war. Neither side gained anything; we fought three years, and then recurred to the *status quo ante bellum*. What a satire upon war! No moralist ever wrote severer than this simple record.

Members of Parliament have been very talkative of late. Lord Fernov and Mr. Harvey Lewis have addressed the Maryleboners; the O'Donoghue has been disporting himself at the Rotunda; the Chancellor of the Exchequer has been advocating "the mission to Bedfordbury;" Mr. Disraeli has attended the inauguration of a statue of the late Marquis of Londonderry; Lord Robert Montagu has lectured on "America and American Democracy;" Mr. John Locke has addressed the Surrey engineers; and Mr. Bright has made an oration at Rochdale. About most of these speakers little need be said. Indeed, the less the better for them. The Marylebone members spoke after their kind. Marylebone has been unfortunate in its selection of late; it has sent some good men to Parliament, Sir William Horne for example, Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer, and Lord Dudley Stuart. Sir Benjamin Hall was nothing very remarkable; he had however, abilities, and adroitness to make the most of them. But since his departure all has gone wrong in Marylebone: the election of Mr. Edwin James was a grievous blunder, and the present men are mere mediocrities. The O'Donoghue is simply a rash and silly person who fancies himself a second O'Connell. This gentleman must be careful. Whilst we are at once his reasonable nonsense may be tolerated, but if we should get into a life-and-death struggle with America he will find himself some fine morning between the four walls of a prison; and as it is, he will have to undergo some unpleasant questioning in Parliament. It is amazing that he cannot see that treason in Ireland is now quite out of date. It kicked its last in the cabbage-garden. By-the-bye, there was an O'Donoghue transported with Smith O'Brien and others in 1849. Was he related to the member for Tipperary? The Chancellor of the Exchequer is always eloquent and effective. Mr. Disraeli discoursed upon the advantages of party government, which we have heard him do before, and lauded the late Marquis of Londonderry as a soldier, a diplomatist, and a coalowner. Mr. Disraeli dearly loves a Lord. However, there can be no doubt that the man whom Sir John Moore thought highly of as a soldier, and who projected and carried out the harbour at Seaham, must have been a more than common person. Knowing, as most of your readers do, something of Lord Robert Montagu, they will not suppose that his Lordship threw much light upon "America and American Democracy." It is hardly to be expected that that which tasked the mind of De Tocqueville can be comprehended by Lord Robert. It is a wonderful problem this question of American democracy, and such weak men as Lord Robert (I use a milder term than the quotation would justify) should not "rush where angels fear to tread."

Mr. Bright's speech was one of his greatest achievements. Agree with him or disagree with him, like the man or hate him, all must acknowledge that his speech at Rochdale was a wonderfully able harangue. I have heard all the great speakers now living, and most of those who have lived during the last forty years, and in surveying those now alive, and calling to mind those that during the past forty years have passed away from the earth, I can find very few—certainly not half a dozen—who could deliver a speech at once so compact, so full, so lucid, and so well calculated for his purpose as that. Its compactness and clearness were quite wonderful. I do not believe that there is a redundant word in it; nor do I think you could change one word for a better. Upon the subject on which he spoke men will, of course, differ in opinion, nor will I undertake the hopeless task of bringing them together; but surely we may acknowledge a man's ability without agreeing with all his opinions. The *Times* paid a fine tribute to this masterly harangue, for on three successive days it dedicated an article to abuse of the speaker.

The morning papers have announced that Parliament is to meet on the 7th of January; but this is not exactly true. If the news from America should be unfavourable, and war should be declared or even imminent, Parliament will reassemble on the 7th; otherwise, it will not meet until the 6th of February.

Mr. Laird is the member for Birkenhead. He has beaten Brassey by a majority of 323. This result surprises no one. Mr. Laird is a very moderate Conservative, and his influence at Birkenhead is immense.

I think it needs no special inspiration to foresee that Mr. Cox will not get in for Finsbury. In 1857, when he was elected, he only polled 4110 out of 20,000 electors. Then he was unknown, now he is known; and familiarity has bred contempt, as it often does.

The calm, businesslike sedentary of the Conservative Land Society have been disturbed by a regular "row," an affair of Donnybrook-like tendency. A certain Dr. Worthington, a clergyman, brought a charge against the well-known and highly-respected secretary, Mr. Gruneisen, of having paid the weekly receipts of the company into his (the secretary's) private banking account, and Dr. Worthington's adherents wished to eject Lord Ranelagh from the chair and place therein a friend of their own. But the gallant Viscount stood his ground, and, when assailed by clamour and threatened with the police, boldly declared that "though suffering from rheumatism he was good for any half-dozen in that room," and he carried the day. Setting aside all question of right (and Dr. Worthington, though a fine example of the Church militant, certainly seems to have acted in a somewhat arrogant and vexatious spirit), if it comes to a question of physical strength, Lord Ranelagh will probably win. There is a certain "professional" look about his Lordship, a grim sprightliness, and well-trained physique, which would render him an awkward opponent for any light-weight to tackle. Beside, has he not the power to order a picked company of the gallant South Middlesex to be in attendance to clear the room and enforce the commands of their Colonel?

Apropos of volunteering. Those gentlemen who seem determined to bring the affair into ridicule have now a fatal chance of exhibiting their peculiarities. The American difficulty has given rise to innumerable displays of idiocy, none more lamentable than that of the thirty-one members of the Bilston Volunteers who, in an address to their Captain, state that, "having heard that the British flag has been outraged," are ready to at once "proceed to" its defence. "We, the people of England," said the three tailors of Tooley-street. Preposterous bombast like this renders the volunteer force contemptible, not only in the eyes of foreigners, but to our own regular army. All that the volunteers can hope to do, all that by their organisation they are fitted for, is to supply the home garrison duty vacated by the regulars called abroad for foreign service. Such an offer has been made by Viscount Bury on behalf of the Civil Service Rifle Regiment, of which he is Colonel.

In the literary and artistic world the death of Mr. Alexander Gilchrist will be noticed with regret. He was the author of "The Life of Etty," and was the art-writer in our contemporary the *Critic*, and was a kindly, genial, intellectual man.

The Rangership of Greenwich Park has been presented to Lord Canning. The worn-out Viceroy, after his years of anxiety and not too salubrious air, will rejoice in the bracing breezes of Blackheath, on the verge of which the Ranger's house is situated. It is a noble mansion; but, I am told, in such a state that it will require an expenditure of some ten or fifteen thousand pounds to render it habitable. This, surely, should not fall upon Lord Canning? The last Ranger was the Earl of Aberdeen; before him the Princess Sophia of Gloucester dwelt in the "residence."

It is rumoured that the manager of a London theatre recently wrote to the proprietors of a London daily journal threatening to withdraw his advertisements unless the theatrical critic of the journal, who had offended him, were dismissed! That any manager should act such a part is singular; but what follows is almost incredible: the proprietors succumbed to the threatened withdrawal of eightpence a day, and the critic received his *congé*.

The "one base exception" to the now modified tone of the American press is, of course, the *New York Herald*, edited by Mr. James Gordon Bennett. This amiable gentleman is a renegade Scotchman, having been born in Lanfshire, and was brought up a Roman Catholic, but he abjured country and religion simultaneously, and went to America. There he has been distinguished for his success, his blackguardism, and the number of times he has been thrashed. Where, by-the-way, is Colonel Watson Webb, the editor of the *New York Courier and Enquirer*? He has thrashed Mr. Bennett three times, and, if he wishes to acquire a European popularity without much trouble, he should thrash him again.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. Robson has revived "The Blighted Being" at the OLYMPIC. The forthcoming Christmas entertainments are as follow:—At COVENT GARDEN a pantomime founded on "Gulliver's Travels," written by Mr. Maddison Morton, and produced by the king of pantomimists, Mr. W. H. Payne.

At DREY LANE a pantomime by Mr. E. L. Blanchard, founded on two nursery legends, with Mr. Beverley's scenery.

At the PRINCESS' a pantomime, with an extravaganza opening by Mr. Byron, founded on "Whittington and his Cat." The part of the Cat will be played by an American boy, who has made a great success at Franconi's.

The HAYMARKET will have a pantomime by Mr. Buckstone, called "The Little Boy Blue."

At the ST JAMES'S, a mythological extravaganza, "Perseus and Andromeda," by Mr. W. Brough.

At the LYCEUM, an extravaganza, "Little Red Ridinghood," by Mr. Falconer and Mr. Buckingham, with wondrous scenery by Mr. Telbin.

At the OLYMPIC, an extravaganza by Mr. Burnand.

At the STRAND, an extravaganza by Mr. Byron.

An amusing addition was made on Tuesday evening to Mr. and Mrs. German Reed's entertainment. Mr. John Parry, with the help of the pianoforte, related "The Vicissitudes of a Colleen Bawn." The imitations of the singer were really wonderful. His abilities, too, were employed on worthy material, for the words (by Mr. H. J. Byron) were decidedly clever and full of puns. Mr. Frank Musgrave and Mr. John Parry himself had arranged the music, which was a highly-amusing medley of all sorts of tunes.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

I HAVE more than once mentioned in this column the exemplary labours of Miss Emily Faithfull and her coadjutors of the Victoria Printing Press in Great Cornam-street, and have alluded to the *édition de luxe* of "The Victoria Regia" about to be issued by them. I am happy to state that this book is nearly ready for issue: in fact, her Majesty's copy was forwarded to Windsor on Tuesday night, and by the beginning of next week the work will be in general circulation. Of the general character of its contents I have already spoken; but I am glad, in anticipation of others, to be able to send you a specimen, in the shape of a very charming little set of verses by Mr. Theodore Martin, which, for simplicity, elegance, and music, it would be difficult to match among recent verse issues:—

THE DYING GIRL'S SONG.

Tell no sullen bell for me,
None, when I am dying;
Let my spirit's requiem be
But the zephyr's sighing,
And the wood bird's melody
When the day is dying.

Bear no solemn marble where
Low my head reposes;
Let sweet flowers blossom there,
Lilies pure and roses;

From the Victoria Press has also been issued within the last few days a most admirable little tract by Mr. F. J. Scudamore, entitled "Life Insurance by Small Payments: a few Plain Words Concerning It." This tract explains how certain of the first insurance offices in London advance policies of insurance to the officers of the Post Office without requiring them to make any preliminary payment whatever, the Postmaster-General collecting the premiums by weekly or monthly deductions from the wages or salaries of the persons con-

cerned and paying the collections over quarterly to the insurance offices. This plan, Mr. Scudamore suggests, should be introduced by large employers of labour into their factories, mills, workshops, or counting-houses, and he thinks that the insurance offices would gladly co-operate whenever there was reasonable prospect that a fair amount of business would be done and that the premiums would be collected with besetting regularity. In another portion of his brochure Mr. Scudamore shows that by the establishment of post-office savings banks the advantages of life insurance have been placed within the reach of the working classes, and of all those persons whose small incomes are paid to them by small but frequent instalments.

A ROMANCE IN HIGH LIFE.

DE LUNATICO INQUIRENDU.

MR. WILLIAM FREDERICK WINDHAM, of Fellbrig, in Norfolk, is a young gentleman of family, who came of age, but not to years of discretion, in August last. He thereby entered in possession of estates of about three or four thousand a year, together with the reversion of another estate worth some twelve thousand a year more when he should attain the age of twenty-eight. To these estates, provided the young man should die without legal issue, certain uncles, of whom the well-known General Charles Asher Windham stands first, were in the entail. As the nephew had been a minor for seven or eight years, it may be presumed that there was a nice little sum of ready money in hand to begin the world with; at any rate, he commenced, some months before he came of age, a thoughtful, extravagant, dissipated life "about town." As in that particular he was by no means singular he escaped any special notice until about eight months ago, when an act rather more thoughtless than is usual brought the eyes of a certain class of society full upon him. He became desperately enamoured of a certain Anne Rogers, rejoicing in the adopted name of Agnes Willoughby. His passion knew no bounds, but unfortunately was not returned. Mr. Windham, however, tempted her with marriage and liberal settlements, and she at length consented to become his wife, being chiefly influenced by the consideration that she could thereby "do something for her mother and sisters." Accordingly, he settled £700 a year upon her at once, and conveyed to settle £800 a year more as soon as he entered into possession of his reversion. The marriage was celebrated a few days after he came of age, and, it need scarcely be said, par parenthèse, turned out an unhappy one, the lady having left him in about three months. In those three months, however, Mr. Windham evinced the sincerity of his feelings for this worthless woman by purchasing jewels for her to the amount, it is said, of £14,000, which he made over to her absolutely; he also made preparations for executing a deed barring the entail, and thus preventing his uncles from ever succeeding to the property. It does not appear that, up to the entrance of "Mrs. Agnes Willoughby" on the scene, the uncles or other relatives made any overt attempt to check this young gentleman in his career of folly; still less did they venture to assert that he was insane. But the moment the marriage was imminent, the possibility of an heir apparent and the contingency of a barred entail strengthened their perceptions amazingly. A few days before Mr. Windham came of age an order was sought for to prevent the marriage; but young love was too quick for them, and the order was not forthcoming until too late. Consequently more stringent measures became necessary. About a fortnight ago a petition, signed by General Windham, the Marquis of Bristol, and Lord Alfred Hervey, all of them, we believe, uncles, one way or another, and some other relatives, was heard (with closed doors, be it understood) before the Lords Justices of Appeal at Lincoln's Inn. It prayed that a "commission de lunatico inquirendo" might be issued against Mr. William Frederick Windham, and, in justification of the measure, it recounted the little hyemal episode given above; it narrated a variety of his foolish tricks and boyish escapades; it complained that he had commenced felling timber (an odd reason), and it is asserted that he was an enormous feeder, and snored loudly! In the mean time what had the young man been doing? As soon as he heard that his sanity was to be called in question he called in no less than five physicians, eminent in that particular branch of the profession, who, after a lengthened interview with him, pronounced him to be of sound mind. Although this evidence was adduced in his favour, and other allegations of cruelty and uncleanness were clearly disproved, the Lords Justices pronounced that a *prima facie* case had been made out, and assented to the prayer of the petition. An endeavour in the Court of Chancery last week to convict Mr. Bowen May, the solicitor who prepared the marriage deeds, of contempt of Court failed, in consequence of proof that, though the young man was introduced to him a few days before he came of age, and whilst yet a ward of the Court, still no deeds were prepared until after he had attained his majority. But Mr. May came in for a smart castigation from Vice-Chancellor Wood for the part he admitted to have subsequently taken in this unhappy transaction.

On Wednesday Sir Hugh Cairns, on behalf of Mr. Windham, applied to the Lords Justices for liberty to raise £2000 on his estate in order to meet the expenses of his defence in the pending inquiry. This was not opposed on the other side, and the Lords Justices gave permission to raise the money, but coupled with the rather important condition that should Mr. Windham be eventually held to be insane the mortgage might be invalid.

DEATH FROM SWALLOWING PRUSSIC ACID.—An inquest was held on Tuesday on the body of a surgeon, who was living apart from his family, and acting as assistant to another surgeon. The deceased gentleman was in the habit of taking laudanum; and it appeared that the bottles containing laudanum and prussic acid were exactly like each other. Whether he meant to take laudanum or not on this occasion there was no evidence to show; but it was clearly proved that his death was caused by his taking a dose of prussic acid.

THE NATIONAL LIFE-BOT INSTITUTION.—The Grocers' Company have sent an additional donation of £100 to the National Life-bot Institution. After a thanksgiving sermon preached by the Rev. J. Reid, M.A., at Blyth, Northumberland, for the late abundant harvest, a collection, amounting to £10, was made, and remitted to the National Life-bot Institution, which has incurred a large expense in the establishment and maintenance of many life-bot stations on the Northumberland coast.

MORE PROFITABLE THAN POLITICS.—Messrs. Cobden, Bright, and some friends, about three years ago, purchased the Dylife Mines for the sum of £24,000, and they were bound also to lay out £10,000 in explorations. Their late returns have been upwards of 200 tons of lead ore per month, which it is believed yields a profit of about £1000 per month, and they expect now to return upwards of 250 tons per month.

THE PRIVY COUNCIL MINUTE ON EDUCATION.—The Government has been beset of late with deputations on the subject of the new educational code. On Tuesday there were two—one a body of about two hundred gentlemen and clergymen, managers of schools, objecting to the new minute altogether; the other, composed only of the lecturers to the different training schools in the metropolis, but headed by a powerful array of members of Parliament, complaining that under the new code no provision was made for their support, and that, in fact, it seemed to be intended that their functions should cease. Earl Granville and Mr. Lowe, who received both deputations, gave little encouragement to either. They were willing to modify the new code where it might be pointed out to be defective, but it would not be withdrawn. As to the case of the lecturers, they seemed to hold that their appointment had been from the first a mistake, and they held out to them no hope of obtaining assistance from Government after Christmas of next year.

SCENE IN THE PICTURE GALLERY.

FROM A PICTURE BY CARL BECKER, OF BERLIN.

AMONG the German genre painters of the present day Carl Becker holds a prominent rank. He has a quick perception in seizing and portraying peculiarities of character, and in the delineation of female grace and beauty he stands unrivalled. These qualities are apparent in the picture from which our illustration is engraved, and in some degree they show the genius of Becker to be akin to that of our own Hogarth. Pictures of domestic life during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries have afforded admirable subjects for the exercise of his brilliant pencil; the costumes, furniture, and other accessories being given in perfection.

Becker is a native of Berlin, and was born in the year 1820. He took part in the pictorial decoration of the Church of St. Boniface in Munich, and he assisted Cornelius in painting the frescoes in the Vorhalle of the Berlin Museum. In 1842 he won the great academic prize for painting, and he then repaired to Italy, where during the space of three years he pursued his artistic studies earnestly and unremittingly. The result was that on his return to Berlin he produced successively a number of pictures on mythological subjects, His "Cupid and Psyche," "Bacchus and Ariadne," "Apollo among the Shepherds," &c., were greatly admired; but these pictures, in spite of their acknowledged merit, remained unsold. The young artist then adopted the style which seems to be the peculiar bent of his genius, and in which he has secured undying fame.



THE FOUNTAIN OF KNOWLEDGE. — A CHURCH IN A CITY.

THE LONDON MAIN-DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

We suppose there was a time when the Thames was a clean, clear, and limpid stream, in whose waters fish abounded, and along whose banks there were pleasant walks, in enjoying which the olfactory organs were not insufferably offended and the stomach made rebellious by reason of noisome exhalations. Poets have sung of such a time, and tradition tells of it; but it was long ago, half a century since at least, beyond the recollection, we fear, of even the oldest inhabitant. Our knowledge of the river in these times is of a very different character. We have come to dread hot summers as we would a pestilence, and not without reason; for with the dogdays there always arises from the Thames such an accumulation of villanous smells as makes its banks hideous and force us to fly from them as far as we conveniently can. But a better time is coming—at least, we are promised that it will do so when the great work of the drainage of London, upon which we are now engaged, is completed. After allowing the refuse of all London to be poured into the river "above bridge" for years—after having half-poisoned the dwellers near the Thames, and even nearly driven our Legislators from the new palace at Westminster—it was at last resolved that an effort should be made to get rid of this gigantic nuisance, and accordingly the great system of the London Main Drainage was determined upon.

The object sought to be carried out by the works called the London Main Drainage is to intercept the sewage in its progress towards the river, and to divert it by covered channels to Barking Creek, on the north side, and Erith Marshes on the south. These points are about fourteen miles below London-bridge, and it is intended that the entire mass of sewage shall be cast into the bottom of the river here during the first two hours of the ebb tide only. The period of discharge is restricted to these hours because then the sewage would be deodorised and diluted by a volume of water twenty times greater than that which now dilutes it at London, and because each ebb tide would, in returning to the sea, convey it to points twelve miles below the outfalls, or twenty-six miles below London-bridge, through a constantly-enlarging flood.

When once this system is got into working order there will be no reason why the Thames should not ebb and flow through London a perfectly clean stream, as the whole of the sewage launched at the first of the ebb will have got so far down before low water that the returning tide will not be able to bring any portion of it nearly back again to the point from which it started.

As the levels of the land upon which London and its suburbs are built are exceedingly variable, sometimes reaching to a great elevation, as at Hampstead and Highgate on the north, and at others being down below the tide-level of the river, as portions of Lambeth on its south side, it may easily be imagined that great consideration

was necessary in laying out the plans for overcoming these and the numerous other difficulties which were likely to arise. Innumerable schemes were discussed and the subject was thoroughly

ventilated. The result was the adoption of the plan which is now being carried out by the Metropolitan Board of Works, under the direction of Mr. J. W. Bazalgette, engineer-in-chief to the Board. The present main-drainage scheme was commenced in February, 1859; the estimate was £3,000,000, and works to the amount of £2,000,000 have been contracted for. Some of these are completed, others nearly so, and the rest rapidly progressing. These contracts embrace fifty miles of main intercepting sewers, for the most part under ground, consequently but little is seen of them, and as little generally known; but they are great works nevertheless, and require great skill and care in their execution. In some places, however, the great drainage works are above the natural level of the earth, and then they have to be carried over navigable rivers, canals, railways, and public roads; great works, also, have to be erected to lift whole rivers of liquid sewage from a lower to a higher level; aqueducts have to be erected to carry it over the avenues of the traffic, penstocks (or sluices) to regulate its course with nicety and discretion, tide-gates to shut out the reflux waters; and numerous other works have been, or have to be, completed before the great undertaking is completed.

On the north side of the Thames the main-drainage system is divided into three distinct areas, called respectively the high, middle, and low level areas. Each of these districts is separated from the one below it by a main sewer, generally rising from east to west, which cuts off at right angles all the local drains which run into the Thames by their old outfalls and carries their contents away to an outfall situated fourteen miles down the river.

The northern high-level sewer is nine miles in length, its head being at Hampstead. It passes through Stoke Newington, and intercepts in its way the old Fleet-river sewer, which now empties itself at Blackfriars-bridge, and also the Hackney-brook drain, finally arriving at Old Ford, on the River Lea, having drained an area of ten square miles. In its downward course it passes under both the Great Northern Railway and the New River. At its upper end the diameter of the sewer is about 4ft. This is increased from time to time as subsidiary sewers are connected with it, until it finally grows to 12ft., which is its diameter at Old Ford.

The northern middle-level sewer extends from Kensal-green to Old Ford, passing through Paddington and Notting-hill, along Oxford-street, through Bloomsbury and Clerkenwell, along Old-street, across Shoreditch, through Bethnal-green, and under the Regent's Canal, eventually arriving beside the high-level sewer at Old Ford. This line of drainage will have three branches—the Piccadilly, Dover-street, and Coppice-row branches. The main line and its tributaries are twelve miles and a half in length; the diameter of the sewer varies, like that on the higher level, from 4ft.



METROPOLITAN MAIN-DRAINAGE WORKS.—SEWER AT NOTTING-HILL, THIRTY FEET BELOW THE SURFACE.



SCENE FROM BALFE'S NEW OPERA, "THE PURITAN'S DAUGHTER."

at its upper end to 12ft. at the penstock chamber. The contract for this work is let to Messrs. Brassey and Co.; about a thousand men are engaged upon it, and it is progressing rapidly.

The northern low-level sewer has yet to be executed; in fact, it is scarcely yet planned out, as it is intended that for a considerable portion of its length it should form a part of the works of the proposed Thames embankment. Its course will be from Chertsey, through Belgravia, down Victoria-street to the foot of Westminster-bridge, then along the banks of the river to the foot of London-bridge, and thence to the pumping-station at Abbey Mills.

The district which includes Acton, Hammersmith, Chiswick, and Fulham will be drained by a separate arrangement; this area is about twenty-one square miles, and is called the "western division." The sewage of this locality will be conveyed to a point on the Thames near Chelsea, where it will be decolorised and the clean water only allowed to enter the Thames.

The united accumulation of all the sewage from the north side of the Thames having eventually arrived at Barking Creek, a fresh arrangement of works becomes necessary. It is intended to construct an immense reservoir, capable of containing 7,000,000 cubic feet of sewage, into which the outfall will discharge itself during the eight hours that the Thames outlets will be closed. This reservoir will be covered with brick arches and earth, in order to prevent the escape of noxious gases. From the reservoir, pipes will pass along the River Thames to nearly the centre of the stream. These outlets will be opened at high tide, when there will be sixty feet water over them; and it is expected that the sewage water so discharged will be swept away into salt water before the tide has entirely ebbed.

On the south side of the Thames a series of works very similar to those we have described on the north are being constructed. The plan is different in one respect—that it has been divided into two drainage-areas instead of three.

The southern high-level sewer consists of two lines—one commencing at Clapham and ending at New Cross, the other extending from Dulwich to the latter place, from which point they are carried in the same trench, but at different levels, under the Brighton, North Kent, and North Woolwich Railways, and along the New Cross-road to the Broadway at Deptford. From this point they pass down Church-street to Deptford Creek, and, as the trench in which they are to be constructed will be the entire width of the street, the whole of the houses on either side will have to be underpinned—that is, they must have entirely new foundations put to them. The street at present is a mass of shoring and scaffolding. At Deptford Creek these two sewers discharge their storm-waters through two culverts eleven feet in diameter; but the ordinary sewage will be conveyed by four iron pipes under the Creek by gravitation into the outfall sewer. The southern high-level sewer drains an area of about twenty square miles, embracing Clapham, Dulwich, Camberwell, and Peckham.

The southern low-level sewer is intended to extend from Wandsworth to Deptford, passing through Battersea-fields to the Brixton-road, and along the low-level districts to its junction with the outfall at Deptford, into which it has to be raised by pumping. The drainage-area of this sewer is about twenty-two square miles.

Two other branch sewers are necessary to complete the drainage of the southern districts—one from Bermondsey to Deptford, the other to intercept the drainage of the River Effra.

The southern outfall sewer will convey the sewage that is pumped into it from the low-level sewer, and that which enters it by gravitation from the higher level through the town of Greenwich and under Woolwich by a deep tunnel one mile long; it will pass through the Woolwich and Erith Marshes to a pumping-station at its outlet to the river. Great difficulties have been experienced in executing this latter portion of the contract; by reason of the volumes of water which deluged the works—ebbing and flowing with the tide, and requiring the constant working of four very powerful steam-engines to prevent the workmen being flooded out.

The entire length of the southern outfall is about seven miles and a half; it will terminate, like that on the northern side, in a covered reservoir.

In illustration of these extensive and important works we this week publish three Engravings, the first being a Sketch of the works at New Cross, on the south side of the river; the second, a View of the Progress of the Sewers at the same place; and the third, showing the Sewer at Notting-hill, thirty feet below the surface of the ground.

BALFE'S NEW OPERA, "THE PURITAN'S DAUGHTER."

In our last Number we entered at some length into the merits of Mr. Balfe's new opera as a musical composition, and also referred to the admirable manner in which Mr. Bridgeman had executed his task as librettist. We now give a scene from the opera, and add a few particulars as to the plot of the piece.

The story may be briefly told. Mary Wolf (Miss Louisa Pyne), the daughter of Colonel Wolf (Mr. H. Corri), a farmer captain in Cromwell's regiment of Ironsides, is affianced to Clifford (Mr. Santley), a young Cavalier, though her father, from his political antipathy, is strongly adverse to the alliance. Another suitor for her hand is Seymour (Mr. A. St. Albyn), a Spanish buccaneer, who makes the acceptance of his proffered alliance the price of his aid in a conspiracy to murder King Charles II. Mary Wolf is concealed by accident in the ruined chapel in which this plot is concocted, and being discovered she is sworn to solemn secrecy and given to Seymour as his bride. Meanwhile Charles II. (Mr. Patey) and Rochester (Mr. W. Harrison) are benighted on an amorous expedition, and take shelter in the house of Clifford, who readily extends to them his hospitality. They are seen there by Colonel Wolf, who communicates the fact to his brother conspirators; but a timorous servant, Ralph (Mr. George Honey), who was in ambush in the chapel, makes known to the monarch their design. Clifford, who has been informed by Mary Wolf that their marriage is impossible, suspects Charles II. of being her lover; but, nevertheless, he determines to save the King, though at the risk of his own life, and accordingly passes himself off for him, while the monarch escapes disguised as Clifford. The conspirators, foiled in their design, resolve to avenge themselves by the summary execution of Clifford, and also of Rochester, who has been left behind by the King; but just at the critical moment Charles II. arrives with a band of sailors, overcomes the Puritans, and dispels the suspicions of Clifford, bringing the trials of the lovers to a happy ending. Such is the brief outline of a tale which is elaborated in much excellent dialogue, interspersed with some extremely effective dramatic situations, and relieved by a slight underplot, based upon the love of Ralph for Jessie (Miss Susan Pyne), the daughter of a village landlord.

Our illustration is from the last scene of the opera, when Seymour, who has volunteered to become the executioner of the conspirators' sentence on Clifford, is about to shoot his rival, when the Puritan's daughter throws herself between her lover and the would-be assassin, which, by delaying the carrying out of the villain's intention, is the means of saving Clifford's life by the timely arrival of the King and his followers.

ST. GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST.—The Rev. Bryan King will not return to duty in this parish for another twelvemonth. He has, however, nominated a clergyman to take the place of the Rev. Alfred Gay, the present Curate in charge, who holds his appointment from the Bishop of London. A meeting of the vestry of St. George-in-the-East was held last week, at which it was resolved, on the proposition of Mr. Churchwarden Compton, to call a public meeting of the parishioners to take steps for the presentation of a testimonial to the Rev. Alfred Gay. It was also resolved that a testimonial of thanks be presented by the vestry to the Rev. A. Gay for the satisfactory manner in which he has conducted the affairs of the church and parish.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE fourth of the "Monday Popular Concerts" at St. James's Hall was signalled by the reappearance of Miss Arabella Goddard after a season of repose. It was a Mozart night, and our first of English pianists played two sonatas by the great master. The first was one of the four which he composed in B flat, being distinguished from the others by the remarkable beauty of its slow movement, an andante cantabile. The other was the sonata in the same key for piano and violin, written for the celebrated female violinist, Signora Strinasacchi, and performed by Mozart himself and that lady at her benefit concert at Vienna in 1784. Mozart at the pianoforte was represented by Miss Goddard last Monday evening; and, to carry out the reversal of the sexes, the Signora's place was taken by M. Vieuxtemps. Mozart, ever governed by a dramatic idea, has worked at the composition of this sonata in a pure Italian spirit of melody. Its exquisite tunefulness was fully evoked by the playing of Miss Goddard and M. Vieuxtemps. The clarinet quintet, in which Mr. Lazarus made so great an impression at the second concert, was repeated, with still more marked effect on its hearers.

The performance of "The Messiah" at the second meeting of the Sacred Harmonic Society has taken place at too late a period of the week for us to comment on its points of excellence. The preceding concert—the first of the winter season—had given a foretaste of success, Exeter Hall being crowded in every part. The music chosen on that occasion was Mendelssohn's comparatively unknown work, "Athalie," written as a pendant to Racine's religious drama, and Handel's anthem known as "The Dettingen Te Deum." To the former a perhaps unavoidable drawback was caused by the reading of the poem in English; but, as the audience applauded heartily all the points which Mr. George Vandenhoff emphatically insisted on, we will not discuss the merit of this part of the performance. The overture was played to perfection, its culmination in the movement which reproduces the opening corale being brought about with admirable energy and skill. The chorus proved its excellence in the first scene, where the song of praise to the true God is sung at the gate of the Temple of Baal. The great display, however, was in the passage "O Sinai," a piece of choral unison worthy the genius of Mendelssohn at its highest moment. The solo parts were taken by Miss Louisa Pyne, Miss Serle, and Mme. Laura Baxter; and the efficiency of these artists received a well-deserved tribute in the re-demand which broke forth on the conclusion of their trio, supported by the chorus, "Hearts feel that love of thee," which brings the third scene to an end. Mr. Costa has reason to feel proud of the manner in which "Athalie" was performed, every feature presenting room for praise. Mr. Brownsmith, the organist, discharged his duty with unexceptionable effect; and the trumpet solo, which forms one of the most peculiar characteristics of the orchestral plan, was given with the utmost artistic feeling and skill by Mr. T. Harper.

The Handel Festival Choir, so far as regards the London contingent of that body, has begun its drill, having been first put in practice with the rehearsal of "Acis and Galatea."

Though unable yet to give an account of the performance of "The Messiah" by the Sacred Harmonic Society, we can speak in high terms of its production at St. James's Hall, on Tuesday, under the direction of Dr. Wylde. After a long absence from public life, Mrs. Merest, whose clear soprano voice will be better recollected in connection with her maiden name, that of Miss Maria B. Hawes, returned to her place on the platform. Mme. Lemmens-Sherrington, Miss Spiller, Mr. Perren, and Mr. Lewis Thomas, were the other vocalists; and Mr. George Lake played the organ accompaniments. The chorus was efficient throughout, and acquitted itself with great credit in "For unto us" and "His yoke is easy."

The Vocal Association will soon commence its rehearsal for 1862. The annual meeting takes place in the course of the present month, and it is expected that the Earl of Dudley will preside.

It is a pity that the Royal Academy of Music cannot find a better concert-room than that in Tenterden-street, Hanover-square. The trial performance by the pupils, last week, evoked many proofs of talent which would have done honour to a public occasion. Miss Robertine Henderson cannot much longer remain the prima donna of these chamber concerts. Her gifts are of the rarest quality, and must soon make her famous. She sang, the other evening, Adolphe Adam's variations on "Ah, vous dirai-je, maman!" with equal brilliancy and archness of expression. The other singers were Miss C. Westbrook, Miss Armytage, Miss Bramley, Miss Flewitt, Miss Ibbotson, Mrs. Rudkin, and Mrs. Wells; all of whom acquitted themselves to the general satisfaction of the audience. The instrumental music was well performed, especially Beethoven's sonata in E flat, op. 12, for violin and pianoforte, by Mrs. Amor and Mr. Walstein.

Having spoken of a performance which hardly challenges criticism, but might well abide it, we will once more allude to the Amateur Musical Society, whose band of some sixty in strength modestly awakes the echoes of Brixton. This capital orchestra, under the direction of Mr. C. Boose, has attained a proficiency which is not always to be found among professional players. At the second concert of the society, on Wednesday evening, Haydn's Symphony in D, Weber's overture to "Der Freischütz," and other instrumental chef-d'œuvres, were performed in an admirable manner; and some pleasing vocal music was afforded by Miss Frances Wilton and Mr. Rogers. The amateur character of the entertainment was broken through in the instance of Signor Giulio Regondi, who not only played his "Andante el Allegro" on the instrument for which he is specially famous, the concertina, but surprised and delighted his audience by such a performance on the guitar as none of them, probably, had heard or imagined. The accompaniments by the orchestra, and by Mr. Arthur Cotton on the pianoforte, gave completeness to the show-pieces of the evening.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, the Speaker of the House of Commons, with a long list of officials, elected, and family trustees, attended a meeting, on Tuesday, at the British Museum. So large a gathering has not been held for years. The object was to decide on the great scheme of separating the contents of the Museum into their natural groups—a scheme long advocated by Mr. Panizzi in behalf of literature and by Professor Owen in the interests of science. This plan was adopted in principle by the trustees a year ago, though only by a majority of one voice. Since then the Government has made the work its own, and the meeting of Tuesday was convened to take the final opinion of the whole body of trustees. The vote of last year was confirmed, we understand, by a large majority. This act decides the preliminary stage of the business, and permits the Government to meet the House of Commons, without fear of misrepresentation or opposition from the Museum itself. The details of the change are of course not settled, nor can they be until Parliament meets.

FOUNDERING OF THE BRITISH SHIP ANCIEN MARINER.—A LOSS OF FIFTEEN LIVES.—The particulars of the loss of this ship and the melancholy fate of the captain and fourteen of the crew have been received. The Ancien Mariner, which was a large-class ship, belonging to Sunderland, left Montreal with a cargo of grain and flour for London, and on the 24th of October she encountered a strong westerly gale, during which the ship, having sprung a leak, foundered. Three men managed to get into a boat which was being towed at the stern; but Captain Johnson and fourteen of his crew went down with the vessel and perished. The three survivors in the boat could not see any of the sufferers floating about on spars. After being buffeted about during the night, the men in the boat were picked up and landed at Cape Rosier; but they suffered much from the cold. The Ancien Mariner was upwards of 600 tons, and ship and cargo are reported to have been insured.

COUNT PALFREY AND THE HUNGARIANS.—A story is told of what transpired on a recent occasion in Perth. Count Palfrey, the Lieutenant-General, sent for the bandmasters of the regiments in garrison there and cautioned them not to play any revolutionary airs. "I particularly forbid you," said he, "to play a new tune which the people call the 'Austrian Soundreil.' " "Excellency," replied a Bohemian, "it is not a new tune—it is an old song."

SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.

It is now nearly a quarter of a century since the Cattle Show left the dirty sheds of a stable-yard at Smithfield and took shelter under a tent in the more genial western regions of the great open area in the centre of the Baker-street Bazaar. Encouraged by the growing esteem of high farming and the cultivation of agriculture as a science, in the working out of which capital may be advantageously employed, its requirements have at last expanded from a tabernacle to a temple, and even the judicious vigilance of Mr. Bonhofs, ever in advance of its progress, is at last so foiled that he acknowledges that the child he has nursed has grown into a young giant, who, in 1862, will have to betake himself, with his new "classes" and his vast annexes of agricultural implements, where a wider and loftier range of buildings may give more ample space for his still further expansion. This, then, is the last Smithfield Club Cattle Show that will take place in Baker street, and, as such, is regarded with even more than usual interest.

There was a private view on Monday, which was attended by a more numerous assemblage of the nobility and gentry than has heretofore been usual, and it was a subject of universal regret that the presence of the Prince Consort and her Majesty was prevented by the indisposition of his Royal Highness. The judges made their awards on Monday, and on Tuesday the show was thrown open to the public. The number of visitors has been very large, and the interest taken in the various animals, productions, and implements exhibited even greater than ordinary.

On the whole, the exhibition of stock is shorter in numbers than usual, there being in some of the classes scarcely more than a sufficient number of competitors to receive the allotted number of prizes—first, second, and third; but, taken as a whole, the beasts displayed are of a much finer quality than usual. It is evident from the present show that the much-desired point of maturity or ripeness at an early age, coupled with size—which can alone render stock feeding and breeding profitable—is meeting with that attention which it has been the earnest aim of the Smithfield Cattle Club, from the very first day of its origin, to advise, aid, and promote. The Devons are better because not quite so small. Mr. Heath, who wins two first prizes in these, is the champion of the year, winning two prizes of £25 each, one of £20, and one of £10 in the present show, in addition to £20 at Birmingham, as well as being the holder of five gold medals in England and one in France. Earl Howe's Devon steer, 3 years and 10 months old, which took the first prize at Birmingham, is admirably firm in flesh; and the Prince Consort's steer, 2 years and 10 months, has all the points that a cattle-painter would seek in a perfect model. The character of the animal is finely preserved in the feeding. His Royal Highness has been singularly fortunate in his stock of beasts this year, winning several prizes, whereas in sheep and pigs he has almost totally failed. The Herefords come out well, and are, some of them, of extraordinary size. The £25 prize steer, exhibited by Mr. Shirley, is all over a pure Hereford—small head, short neck, well grown up to the roundness of his broad shoulders. The first gold medal is carried off by Mr. George Taylor's shorthorn, an animal which is pronounced to be the very acme of symmetry—extraordinarily level and even at all points, and will be the wonder and admiration of the season. The exhibition of Scotch cattle is excellent, especially the Duke of Beaufort's. There is the largest Kerry cow ever seen, shown by Lord Berners; and two of the smallest and richest milkers from Bretonne, standing only 32 inches high, to contrast with it. The second gold medal for the best cow also falls to a shorthorn, bred by Sir J. H. Crewe, and belonging to Mr. J. Faulkner, of Bretby. Another, which carried off the palm from all at Birmingham, but is here only pronounced the best of its class, is a Scotch polled heifer, perfect of its class, belonging to Mr. William M'Combie, of Tillyfour, Aberdeen. Mr. Taylor's shorthorn and Mr. M'Combie's polled Scotch heifer will divide attention, while they obtain the notice of all judges. Of the sheep the judges speak in the highest terms. The southdowns are remarkably fine, and here the Duke of Richmond is still unsurpassed. There are several new classes for sheep; but the entries are few. The pigs are not quite so fat, and therefore more interesting and shapable than usual. On the whole, the show of 1861 is greatly in advance of any that have gone before it. The specimens of roots, especially swedes, are of a wondrous quality as to weight and size; and the agricultural implements exhibited by various eminent firms are more varied and excellent than on any former occasion, and of a character that would astonish the simple plough-and-harrow farmer of the olden time.

UNIVERSITY CONTROVERSIES.—The Jowett controversy has been raging fiercely at Oxford. Anonymous and signed circulars have been flying about the University. Mr. Bramley, of Magdalen College, who has stated in congregation that his faith had been undermined by Professor Jowett's lectures on the Greek language, has been invited to recant or give greater explicitness to his charge by a fellow-student, Mr. Duckworth, of Trinity. Mr. Bramley declines to recant, and replies that "it is much easier to note a result than to analyse the process by which it was effected"—in other words, as every plaintiff knows, that it is much easier to make charges than to justify them. An anonymous "Undergraduate" tells his suffering in a way so similar that the public compassion commends him with Mr. Bramley. From his unseemly confession he pours into the ear of the University his profound regret that Mr. Jowett's lectures in Greek had opened in his mind "new lines of thought"—like a sudden chasm yawning in the flint—which he found only leisure and sea air adequate to obliterate. This physical and spiritual invalid finds a sister in some second undergraduate, who affirms that Mr. Mansel's lectures had thrown him into an abyss of doubt, from which Mr. Goldwin Smith's "Notes on National Religion" at length rescued him; but not till his mental struggles had ensured his failure in the schools. He proposes to the University to take away all but £40 of Mr. Mansel's salary, and to restore it by instalments as that gentleman's faith gradually deepens. While the *ditto* minutes of Oxford thus mimic the solemn debate so recently held on the University Olympus, the leader, whose destiny is at stake, remains unmoved in his tent.—*Spectator*.

PAUPERISM.—The returns made to the Poor-law Board show that the increase of pauperism goes on, though to a much less extent than might have been expected. At the close of September it was 5.56 per cent over the corresponding period of 1860. At the close of October it had reached 5.99 per cent. The chief change in October was in the north-western district—Lancashire and Cheshire, which are remarkable in ordinary times for the small number of their paupers. At the end of September last they were 5.33 per cent more than at the same date in 1860, but at the end of October they had increased so greatly as to be 10.33 per cent more than at the end of October, 1860; but still these two counties, with, as compared, for instance, with the south-western or the south-eastern district of England, a population of three to every two persons in either of those districts, have much fewer paupers than they.

THE PROPOSED ROAD ACROSS HYDE PARK.—Deputations from the different parishes interested in having a road made through Hyde Park had an interview with Mr. Cowper on the subject on Saturday last. The right hon. gentleman exhibited a plan which he thought would meet the views of the inhabitants, in which a subway was shown about twenty feet below the surface level, to run through, not Hyde Park, but Kensington Gardens, at a point that would not interfere with the Serpentine. This subway, ornamented as Mr. Cowper proposed it should be ornamented, would add to, rather than detract from, the beauty and the quietude of the surrounding landscape. The great question was the expense. The deputations have no authority to raise money, and Mr. Cowper distinctly assured them that nothing was to be expected from Parliament.

CHARGING-CROSS RAILWAY COMPANY.—The award of Mr. John Stuart, of Liverpool, the umpire appointed by the Board of Trade, has just been made for compensation to be paid by the Charging-cross Railway Company for the purchase of St. Thomas's Hospital and premises, and also for the damage sustained by the governors by reason of the execution of the works authorised by the company's Act. The sum awarded by the umpire as compensation, on the grounds stated, is £206,000. The claim of the authorities connected with the hospital was £750,000.

THE NAVAL RESERVE.—The following is a detail of the several reserves on the 1st instant:—Coast-guard on ships' books for shore duty, 252 officers, 3386 men—3618; ships' crews, 227 officers, 1763 men, and 719 boys—2700; tenders' crews, 107 officers, 574 men, and 166 boys—847; marines, 510. Total, 1714. Old reserve force—26 officers, 1108 men Naval Coast Volunteers, 7763. Naval Reserve force, 7450. Total number of men available 21,231.

